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Pledge by citizens of the Black Country

NOT only can the country's newest official citizens now call themselves British but they can also consider themselves proper Black Country folk as well.

For the first time the Black Country flag and its new anthem have been incorporated into a regular citizenship ceremony held in the region.

Twenty people from countries as far a field as America, Jamaica, Pakistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe, were granted their official British citizenship at the ceremony at Dudley's Priory Hall.

They pledged an oath to Queen and country, sang the national anthem and signed the official register while the regional flag was installed alongside the Union Jack and St George's cross.

The Black Country anthem I Vow To Thee Black Country by folk band The Empty Can, was also played during the handover of their certificates.

The song was declared the area's official anthem in the run up to the Black Country Day on July 14. It is being released and proceeds will go towards Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

Superintendent registrar for Dudley Council Penny Fulford conducts around 15 citizenship ceremonies a year.

Man dies of stab wounds

A MAN aged 50 has died from stab wounds he inflicted upon himself at a house in Moxley.

He was rushed to hospital in the early hours of Sunday morning after police received reports of self-harm at an address in Thorncroft Road.

Police spokesman Brigg Ford said: "The man was later pronounced dead in hospital. A post-mortem confirmed he had died from self-inflicted stab wounds."

SCARLET FEVER IS ON THE RISE

Report by Marion Brennan

CASES of scarlet fever are continuing to soar and are prompting health bosses to renew a warnings to parents. The Black Country has had at least 98 cases reported since September.

Rates nationwide have reached their highest levels for more than 30 years. In Dudley there were 16 cases, double the number of last year.

Wolverhampton has experienced an even bigger rise with 57 cases, compared to just four in the city last year. Sandwell had nine cases has compared to four and there were 16 in Walsall borough compared to its total of six last year.

More homes being built across region

THE number of large housing estates being built in the region has gone up by a quarter since a shake-up of planning rules, new figures revealed today.

Figures show councils across nine boroughs and districts approved 33 more large-scale housing estates — those with at least 10 homes — in 2013 than in 2011.

It comes following the relaxation of the planning laws and amid calls for an urgent review of green belt rules to allow more homes to be built in rural areas.

Sandwell has seen the biggest increase in large-scale housing estates with the borough council approving 34 in 2013 compared with 21 two years earlier. Dudley saw numbers rise from 11 to 17. In South Staffordshire the increase was from two to four.

More homes are on the way. More than 100 homes have been provided at Dudley's Friars Gate, off Priory Road, with some residents using the Government's Help to Buy scheme. Communities secretary Eric Pickles visited the new estate last month.

One recent site, subject of a further application, is for the former Springfield and Brickhouse neighbourhood office in Rowley Regis, which is going to be demolished and replaced with housing.

There have been 116 cases in Staffordshire which prompted the county's public health boss Mark Sutton, Staffordshire County Council's public health boss to say: "We are asking parents to remain vigilant for signs and to contact their GP if they are concerned their child may have scarlet fever. Although scarlet fever was once a serious illness the good news is that these days it can usually be treated effectively with antibiotics."

Symptoms include the characteristic pink-red rash, sore throat, fever and headache and is most common in children under the age of eight, although adults can also develop the fever.

Impact

Efforts are continuing to find out why the number of cases of scarlet fever have increased so alarmingly. More recent figures suggested a possible decline in the rate of the increase but health chiefs say they have to assess the impact of children returning to school after the Easter break.

The alert was first raised in early April when the number of reported cases regionally stood at 255, compared to 98 at the same time last year. Investigations continue across the UK to assess whether a new strain may have emerged.

Bosses at Public Health England (PHE) said that figures showed that cases tended to spike around every four years. It is not known why. Schools and nurseries are being urged to follow hand hygiene practice as part of daily routines for pupils and staff. They are urged to alert health protection teams if an outbreak is suspected.

Children and adults are being reminded to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue when they cough and sneeze.

Danni wins a gig in her garden



Uncle Frank perform at the Wollaston home of competition winner Danni Griffiths

IT'S not every day an internationally-renowned musician rocks up to play a gig in your back garden. But Fun Lovin' Criminals drummer Frank Benbini delighted a fan and her friends when he arrived at her home in Wollaston for the one-off show.

Lucky 17-year-old Danni Griffiths, in Wollaston, won a competition for him to appear with his duo Uncle Frank alongside fellow musician Naim Cortazzi. The pair

chatted to Danni, a student at Halesowen College, and enjoyed a drink with those gathered before launching into their set inside a marquee set up for the occasion.

Danni, herself an aspiring singer, was among the winners of a competition called Step into My Room, for the band to perform at her home. Frank said the tour had been set up as a way of 'breaking down the barriers' between the band and audience.

MP joins rebel vote against HS2 plan

CONTROVERSIAL Birmingham to London rail project HS2 will go ahead — despite opposition from rebel Tories including Dudley South MP Chris Kelly.

Work on the first phase of the £50 billion scheme, including new stations in Birmingham's Curzon Street and beside Birmingham Airport, will start in 2017.

The project was pushed through by a vote in the House of Commons, despite 41 MPs voting against it.

Among the rebels was Dudley South Tory Chris Kelly. His fellow Conservative MPs Margot James, who represents Stourbridge, and James Morris, Halesowen and Rowley Regis voted in favour, as did Labour MP for Dudley North Ian Austin.

Supporters say the line promises thousands of jobs and will cut the journey between London and Birmingham to 49 minutes.

Mr Kelly said: "To get from any part of the Black Country to the new HS2 station in Birmingham during the day will, optimistically, take at least an hour by car, more like 90 minutes in the usual levels of traffic, or longer by public transport. That's before the high speed train has left the station. Current Sandwell and Dudley to London Euston services will be reduced and journey times extended."

Chain in talks over new store

A CLOTHING chain is in talks to launch a new store at a Stourbridge shopping precinct as 'significant' investment in the centre continues.

Bosses from the Ryemarket Shopping Centre have confirmed meetings were taking place with a national retailer interested in taking on units at the mall.

But they refused to confirm the identity of the chain saying that negotiations were 'only in the early stages'.

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Bid to open skate park by summer

WORK on a long-awaited £150,000 skate park is to begin this month with the aim to get the facility open in time for school summer holidays.

Social enterprise group Unit3sixty won approval to build the indoor park in Mill Race Lane in Stourbridge last month and the group has since received £50,000 worth of extra funding from the Charity Bank toward the project.

It means boss Gavin Pardoe can start work on the park following the take-over of a disused industrial unit.

Mr Pardoe said if the organisation wins a further application for a £50,000 grant from Biffa Award, it could begin phase two of the project which would see a DJ/graffiti artist studio and a cafe. The park will employ up to eight people.

Mr Pardoe said: "The support we have had come in has been fantastic. It has given us the confidence that we are creating something people in this area need and want."

"We can't wait to get started at the site and hopefully have the place up and running by the school summer holidays."

After first unveiling proposals for the park in August last year,

Unit3sixty has received £187,000 in grants, including £50,000 from Sport England.

The group has has support from community leaders including Chairman of Stourbridge Township Council Margaret Scott and Stourbridge MP Margot James. It was devised by Mr Pardoe following calls for new facilities after the closure of the popular Ramparts skate park.

Boost for town as new shops opening

TWO new shops are opening as business bosses ride a wave of success following the arrival of a large supermarket.

The opening of clothing stores Scary Canary and Wardrobe One in Market Street, Stourbridge, this month come as marketing agent BWD Retail announces all shop units at the new Crown Centre have been taken.

Officer in fatal crash faces trial

A POLICE driver who was responding to an emergency call-out when his unmarked car killed a student on a pedestrian crossing will stand trial next year.

Pc Vaughan Lowe, of Stourbridge, pleaded not guilty at Warwick Crown Court to causing the death of 24-year-old Birmingham City University student Zhang Xuan Wei by careless driving.

The hearing was adjourned for trial and Pc Lowe, aged 42, was granted unconditional bail.

The charge follows the collision on April 5, 2012, as Pc Lowe, then based at the West Midlands Police traffic unit in Aston, and a colleague responded to reports of a stolen car.

A date was identified in November for trial but Pc Lowe's solicitor said he would not be available at that time an alternative date was available on January 5 next year. Judge Richard Griffith-Jones adjourned the case for trial.

Zhang, who was studying for a master's degree in data networks and security, was described as 'an exemplary student' and Birmingham City University has set up a prize in his honour.

The centre's anchor store, Tesco Extra, opened six months ago.

Sara Shakespeare changed her career from pub work to open Wardrobe One in her home town.

The 37-year-old mother-of-three has experience working in the clothing industry in London.

Boss

She said: "I wanted to do something new and be my own boss."

"I figured if I was ever going to do this, I need to do it now."

The shop will sell clothing from independent designers. Mrs Shakespeare said: "I chose to open here because it is a busy market town and there is a good sense of community."

"The Tesco opening along with the town's regeneration can only be good for new businesses."

Scary Canary owner Stacey Smith said she believed the town was benefitting due to the supermarket.

Miss Smith, who set up the firm with fiancé Steve Pilcher six years ago, is opening her store in the former Mad Hackers barbers as part of an expansion plan.

Miss Smith, 32, said: "Before we closed the Victoria Passage store we noticed business picking up after the Tesco opening, people also stopped complaining about the lack of parking."

"We look forward to coming back firstly with this store, and then the second, larger store in the summer."

Nostalgia at school reunion



Members of the class of 76 — Alan Scott, Sarah Cox, Jacqui Howells and Clair Phillips

FORMER pupils of a school in Kingswinford are being invited to a night of 1970s nostalgia with old school mates.

Four friends from Crestwood School in Bromley Lane have organised a reunion of former classmates who are celebrating their 50th birthdays.

The event is the brainchild of 49-year-old Alan Scott who along with friends Sarah Cox, Jacqui Howells and Stuart Fereday set up a Facebook page and decided to hold the reunion. So far they have managed to

contact 100 former pupils. Mr Scott said: "When I retired as a police officer I had a lot of old school mates who said that I had too much time on my hands and I should organise a reunion. I went online and found some of my old friends. With most people having celebrated or about to celebrate their fiftieth birthday it just seemed the right time."

The reunion is at Himley House on June 21 from 8pm. Tickets cost £15. Contact cls076@outlook.com or visit www.facebook.com/groups/539139589469530.

The beady eyes turn to glass museum

AN annual 'Beads Day' is returning to the Black Country for its tenth year this weekend.

Broadfield House Glass Museum is hosting the popular free admission event on Saturday.

It features stalls selling handmade beads and complete jewellery, as well as demonstrations in bead craft.

Artists

To celebrate its tenth year, the museum is staging A String of Beads, an exhibition featuring beads made by artists from across the UK, accompanied by a full-colour catalogue of the same name.

The catalogue, written by bead maker Pauline Holt and sponsored by the Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum, is a light-hearted look at modern bead making in the UK as well as featuring images and artists details from the exhibition.

The day runs from 10am to 4pm and admission is free. Refreshments will be available.

Demonstrations will be carried out by Pauline Holt of Jazzy Lily beads, Barbara Mason from StudioB and Marlene Minhas from Glassygear.

Touring car to tennis court

RACING driver Matt Neal will swap his steering wheel for a racket when he takes part in a charity tennis match later month.

The 47-year-old former British Touring Car champion will play at Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club's fun day and barbecue on May 17, from 10am to 4pm.

Neal will team up with head coach Les Davies to take on his own agent and club assistant coach Kirk Woodall. Neal will also bring along his Honda Civic racing car to the event in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice.

Race and potato

A THEATRE group is holding a race night fundraiser.

It will be hosted by Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society at Quarry Bank Community Centre on Saturday from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 children including a jacket potato. Call Julia on 07948394579.

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Song will celebrate the Black Country

A SONG celebrating the pride of the Black Country will be released on May 27.

The Empty Can are looking to break into the charts with their charity song I Vow to Thee Black Country.

It has been named as the area's official anthem as the countdown to national Black Country Day on July 14 continues.

The song, a Black Country version of the patriotic classic, I Vow to Thee My Country, is available to pre-order this month ahead of its official release date.

All money raised through sales of the single, which can be purchased for just 99p, will go to Compton Hospice. The charity has been chosen in dedication to Steve Evans, a former Wolverhampton City Council worker, magician, comedian and keen fisherman, who died in January aged just 52, following a two-year battle with stomach cancer.

The original song, I Vow to Thee My Country, dates back to 1921 when a poem by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice was set to music by Gustav Holst.

People can email blackcountryday@hotmail.co.uk to join the mailing list to receive email notification when the song is available.

Waste inquiry is extended

A PLANNING inquiry on the fate of a waste plant planned for Brierley Hill has been extended.

The hearing to be held by the Planning Inspectorate on Clean Power Properties' proposal for the plant off Moor Lane had been scheduled to take place from June 17 for four days.

Now, on appointing Mike Robins as inspector, the Government body says the inquiry at Dudley Council House will last at least a week. After Dudley Council refused the firm's proposal last year, the company appealed and a public inquiry has been set up to decide.

Sailing taster

A FREE sailing taster is being held on May 17 by Himley Hall Sailing Club at Himley Park in the Royal Yachting Association's Push Your Boat Out Weekend. Call Tony Sutton 07774 818449, email sutton.tony@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.himleyhalls.org.uk

Readers get chance to meet the authors



Author Sathnam Sanghera

A FORTNIGHT of activities has been planned at a series of libraries to celebrate all that is great about books. The Big Book Fortnight will start on Saturday.

There will be several author talks in Dudley borough including an evening with journalist and author Sathnam Sanghera. He will be giving a talk at Halesowen Library on May 16 from 7.15pm.

Originally from Wolverhampton, he has written two books, 'The Boy with the Topknot: A Memoir

of Love, Secrets and Lies in Wolverhampton' which was shortlisted for 2008 Costa Biography Award. His novel 'Marriage Material' looks at the lives of a Sikh family who run a Wolverhampton corner shop. Admission is £3. Book on (01384) 812980.

For children and families, Stourbridge Library will welcome author and illustrator Jo Hodgkinson on Saturday from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. A graduate of the University of Wolverhampton, she has written and il-

lustrated picture books for children. Netherton Library will welcome Dudley-born author Michael Taylor on May 15 from 11am to 12.30pm. People will be able to meet the author who sets his books in the Black Country.

Director of community services on Dudley Council Andrea Pope-Smith said: "Together as Black Country authorities we have been celebrating Big Book Fortnight for 10 years. This is a great way to celebrate our local talent and give readers the

chance to meet with the authors of books they love to read. I would encourage people to come along and enjoy Big Book Fortnight."

There will also be a readers' afternoon on May 17 from 1pm at the new Archives and Local History centre in Tipton Road. The event co-ordinated by West Midlands Readers' Network will give an opportunity to meet authors and find out what's on offer at the new centre. For more information see www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries.

Plumber sent to prison for ripping off customers

A PLUMBER who conned thousands of pounds customers by overcharging them has been jailed for 16 months.

Steven Greenaway ripped off elderly victims across the Black Country and Worcestershire while a sub-contractor for emergency call-out companies.

In five cases since 2010, he overcharged customers by £3,825 for work such as repairing leaking pipes

Woman is fined over illegal cigs

MORE than £6,000 worth of illegal cigarettes were seized by trading standards during a raid at a house in Cosely, a court was told.

Officers swooped on the home of 59-year-old Linda Clayton in February last year. They discovered 900 packets of cigarettes at the address in Pirrey Close. None had the correct safety markings and UK duty had not been paid on them.

Clayton appeared before Dudley magistrates where she pleaded guilty to two charges under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. She was fined £1,100 and ordered to pay £230 costs and £110 victim surcharge.

The cigarettes were handed over to trading standards to be destroyed.

Director of Urban Environment for Dudley Council John Millar said: "Not only do illegal cigarettes cheat the system, they can often have more harmful effects on the consumer than regular cigarettes because we have no way of knowing what is in them."

Two victims were targeted after Greenaway was convicted on two counts of fraud relating to work for a 78-year-old Oldbury man with Huntington's disease.

Sentencing the 41-year-old from Kidderminster at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Judge Michael Challinor said the age of his victims made the 13 charges of fraud he admitted even more serious. He said: "You left your victims shocked at demands and feeling foolish and dismayed that they had been deceived."

Greenaway had 'seriously overcharged' for work which was sometimes inadequately carried out or not needed.

Greenaway, of Marlpool Lane, pleaded not to be jailed, saying imprisonment would be 'hard' for his family. But prosecutor Mark Jackson described Greenaway as a 'convicted confidence fraudster'.

A woman from Cradley Heath was charged £1,527 to fix leaks and install a new toilet system but the toilet still does not work. Her insurance company would only pay £200. Another victim, from Halesowen, was charged £787 to repair a downstairs toilet. Some of the work was not needed.

Judge Challinor took into account three offences relating to work for an 81-year-old widow, from Dudley.

The case was brought by Sandwell Council trading standards.

Students pull together for museum



Chain of events — Dudley College students prepare for their performances at the Black Country Living Museum

STUDENTS are pulling together to tell the history of the Black Country under the stars.

Dramatic performances, light shows and dance will dazzle visitors attending the Black Country Living Museum's Red By Night event next Saturday, May 17.

The Tipton Road museum has linked up with Dudley College students for the project as part of the annual Museums at Night festival which opens up attractions in the evening.

The students have selected the museum's usually unoccupied settings Trapshop, Blacksmith House, Anchor Forge and Lench's Oliver Shop to house unique performances.

Student Josh Chell, aged 19, from West Bromwich, is working on a performance that highlights the conflict between factory owners and teachers over the use of child labour.

"Usually we're given a script, which we learn and then perform, but developing our own performance for the

Red by Night event has been a fantastic opportunity for us," he said.

Performing arts student Chelsea Young, 17, from Dudley, added: "We've already performed a couple of times at the museum, so when we were given the chance to use areas of the museum that the public don't normally get access to we were really excited."

Tickets for Red by Night are available in advance only on www.bclm.co.uk/bookings or by calling 0121 520 8054.

NEWS in brief

Character theme at St Peter's fair

A CHURCH is hosting a spring fair themed on story book characters next weekend.

St Peter's Church, in Kent Street, Upper Gornal, is holding the fundraising fair on Saturday, May 17.

It will feature a range of stalls including a tombola, books and a traditional bric-a-brac stall.

Stallholders will be getting in on the fun by wearing fancy dress during the event.

The fair will be open from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

Cricket veterans share insights

CRICKET fans can take a stroll down memory lane just a short distance from Warwickshire County Cricket Ground when veteran broadcasters Henry Blofeld and Peter Baxter share their Test Match memories at Birmingham MAC.

Insights on England's recent ill-fated Ashes Tour will also feature when the duo speak their minds at the Edgbaston arts centre, in Cannon Hill Park, on June 25. See www.macarts.co.uk or call 0121 446 3232.

Choral concert and all that jazz

A MALE choir bring a touch of jazz to their spring concert this weekend.

Warley Male Choir will be taking to the stage in Halesowen on Saturday at the Cornbow Hall in the town centre. The choir will be supported by jazz musicians the Ralph Allin Trio. Tickets are £8 on the door, open at 6.15pm for a 7pm start. Call 0121 552 4113 or visit the website www.warleymalechoir.co.uk

Theatre group seeking recruits

A NEW amateur dramatics company aimed at helping young people learn theatre skills has started in the Black Country.

Charity Arts based in Tipton is planning a Christmas production of Cinderella. The group meets every Wednesday night at the Brook Street centre. Call Sam on 07884192233 or Emma on 07445020556

Canal help needed

THE Coombeswood Canal Trust is looking for people to help remove rubbish from the Dudley Number Two Canal. The group is using its boat Ringo for improvement work. See www.hawnebasin.org.uk

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YOU know you're getting old when your holidays start looking more like pilgrimages. By the time this appears, I should be taking a wee dram in the bar of the hotel in the little Scottish village that is forever Furness.

It was here in 1982 that a little-known film director, Bill Forsyth, brought together a small team of actors and one global superstar, Burt Lancaster, to make a movie which made the whole world smile.

On paper, Local Hero is simply a story of a Texas oil company trying to turn a little Scottish bay into the petro-chemical capital of Europe, without bargaining on some canny locals and one stubborn old hermit (Fulton Mackay) who claims he owns the beach. But it actually goes much deeper. Local Hero is a film about values, weighing the world-conquering dollar against the simple pleasures of a quiet life.

The young oil executives sent to clinch the deal, McIntyre (Peter Riegert) and Oldsen (Peter Capaldi), quickly go native. First their ties disappear, then the smart jackets. Gathering seashells, McIntyre leaves his prized wrist-watch by a rock pool. As the tide rises you hear the alarm call, the tune of The Yellow Rose of Texas ("conference time in Houston") fading under the waves.

Forsyth set the fictional village of Furness in the real-life fishing village of Pennan, near Fraserburgh on the bleak north-east coast of Scotland. Ever since we saw the film more than 30 years ago, we promised that one day we would make the long trek to Pennan and stay at the little hotel where McIntyre, slipping into local ways, orders a 42-year-old whisky and, when he's told it's not available says: "Well give me four eight-year olds and a ten-year old."

Local Hero became part of my 40-year love affair with Scotland, an affair which has taken me from the white beaches of Benbecula to salmon fishing in Thurso, from malt-whisky tasting in Leith to the wild moors of Corrour, to the romance of the West Highland Line and the endless fascination of sailing on Loch Lomond. As the referendum on independence draws closer, it occurs to me that I have never regarded Scotland as anything other than a separate country, a place apart in culture, language, bank-notes, food and attitudes.

The thing that strikes me time after time, and which seems so odd to us English, is the kinship between Scots. It's not that they all love each other but there is a quiet conviction, no matter where they meet, that to be Scottish is to belong to a very exclusive club. It is a kinship which transcends wealth and class, religion, politics, clan and even the old Highland-Lowland divide. It is based largely on the shared and bonding experience of living next door to the English. Which raises the question of what happens if and when the Scots vote for independence. What becomes of that kinship when you remove the unifying factor, the common enemy, the frightful Sassenach? Does Scotland become one proud nation? Or might it simply become ungovernable?

□□□□□□□□

AND finally in Furness, there's the immortal red telephone box. In the days before mobiles, the phone box was the only link between Mr Happer the oil magnate in Houston and his man McIntyre in Furness. It's still there, on the seafront by the hotel, and is reputed to be the most telephoned, and possibly the most famous, phone box in the world. If you've seen the unbearably poignant ending of Local Hero, as McIntyre tries to ring Furness from his flat in Houston, you'll know why.

You've never seen Local Hero? Then do.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

College wins India education contract

DUDLEY College has clinched a £500,000 contract to provide training for 250 education leaders from India over the next two years.

Experts will teach leadership and management skills to principals at polytechnics from across India as part of the project.

College officials will visit India for a series of workshops over the next year.

There will also be a four-day visit by Indian delegates for them to shadow and observe staff from the college.

Invest

Officials said this would allow them to see its leadership and management style in action. Cash from the contract will be used to invest in staff and the college's estate.

It will build on the experiences of the college's Leadership and Management Hub, which has already provided similar training in the UK, Libya and Saudi Arabia.

Bosses said the Indian government was hoping to train hundreds of workers in the next six years.

Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "A growth in India's economy and its fast developing

global position has led to the India government setting a target to train 500 million workers by 2020.

"Part of this colossal challenge is to provide its college principals with the leadership skills required to manage their organisations through this time of transition.

"Further education in the UK is recognised internationally for its quality and achievements."

The new bishop gets warm welcome

THE new Bishop of Dudley has been given a 'characteristically warm welcome' by community leaders.

Rt Revd Graham Usher was consecrated into his new role by the Archbishop of Canterbury at St Paul's Cathedral last week and on Saturday, he was officially welcomed to his new diocese at St Thomas and St Luke in Dudley.

Dudley Mayor Alan Finch, Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands Paul Sabapathy CBE and Imam Hashmi Qudoos, Senior Imam at Dudley Central Mosque, were among those to greet him. He replaces the Rt Revd David Walker, who is now Bishop of Manchester.

In his sermon, Bishop Graham said: "I ask you to pray for me to be the kind of bishop that has inspired me in the past."

In a personal pilgrimage the bishop cycled and walked 32 miles to Worcester before rowing across the River Severn to the cathedral, where he was made Canon. Bishop Usher grew up in Ghana and went to school in Yorkshire. He was ordained in 1996 and started his ministry in Middlesbrough. He has been married to his GP wife Rachel for 18 years and the couple have two children.

Blaze wrecks three lorries

THREE lorries were wrecked in a garage damaged in a blaze which happened in the early hours of Friday in Stourbridge.

The fire broke out at Allens (Stourbridge) ransport Ltd site in Old Wharf Road, near Stourbridge Canal, at around 4.30am.

Fire crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill were sent to the scene where they found the flatbed lorries and storage garage alight in the gated yard at the front of the site. They used one main jet and breathing apparatus to tackle the blaze, extinguished by around 6.10am.

Shop for unit

A NEW charity shop to support the work of a hospital unit has opened its doors.

The Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund which will raise cash for the Georgina Cancer Unit at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley has opened at Unity Walk Arcade, Owen Street, Tipton.

Lenny brings reggae play to city theatre

COMEDIAN and actor Lenny Henry is returning to the West Midlands to star in a play based on a radio series he co-created.

The 55-year-old Freeman of Dudley will appear in the stage premiere of Rudy's Rare Records from September 4 to 20 — his first role at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

It is based on the BBC Radio 4 sitcom which Lenny co-created and starred in for four series, set in a reggae record shop at risk of re-development in Birmingham.

Lenny plays Adam, son of owner Rudy, who reluctantly moves home to look after his dad and help run the shop. It has been adapted for the stage by writer Danny Robins, who co-wrote the radio series with Lenny and Dan Tetsell.

First

Lenny said: "I have performed comedy gigs many times in Birmingham over the years but this is my first straight acting role in the city. It is also the first time I have been on stage at the Rep, which is something I am really looking forward to.

"Growing up in Dudley I would come into Birmingham every Saturday to hang-out in a record shop not too dissimilar to Rudy's, so it is a play that is very close to my heart."

Lenny first made his name on talent show New Faces and Tiwas, becoming a mainstay of TV comedy.

MP backs careers scheme

A PROJECT by a metal firm to provide school pupils in the Black Country with careers advice from professionals and businesses has been praised by an MP.

Iron castings manufacturer Thomas Dudley has launched Careers in the Classroom to give schools presentations from a range of potential employers. It has also set up a website. Dudley North MP Ian Austin is urging other businesses to get involved. He said: "The great thing about Careers in the Classroom is that students get to see local people talking about their jobs, showing them the career they want is within reach."

Students improve scout camp



The Prince's Trust Team take a break from their woodland work at Kinver

YOUNG people on a personal development programme are getting stuck in to transform an area of woodland near Stourbridge into a nature walk.

The group of 12 students, who are on a 12-week Prince's Trust Team programme delivered by City of Wolverhampton College, are carrying out the work at Kinver Scout Camp.

The project includes digging, fencing, installing tyre flower beds, vegetable beds and a scented herb area and building a fire pit.

They are also creating a wormery, making both an insect and a bee 'hotel', putting down bark and creating a story telling area for children.

They will be joined by local firemen who will help build bird boxes and by school children who will help with the planting. Users of the Harmony Day Care Centre will also lend a hand.

The team raised £700 for the project by bag packing at aspermarket and organising a family fun day at Walsall Fire Station.

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Restoring manor is linked to 14 homes

PLANS to breathe new life into the servants' quarters of a historic Black Country mansion has been approved.

Wordsley Manor's 'east wing', which used to house the lower kitchens, maids' bedrooms, wash house and a brewery, will be restored. It comes after the Grade II building's owner Christopher Firmstone sold off part of the grounds for housing to raise £400,000 for renovations.

Fourteen homes are being built on the land, off Meadowfields Close in Wordsley.

Permission for the new properties was on condition that developers Selbourne Homes carried out restoration work on the three-storey Wordsley Manor, built in 1727. Erection and listed building consent to restore the two-storey section of the east wing has now been approved by council officers.

Selbourne Homes' application says that both east and west wings are 'dilapidated and in a dangerous state of repair'. The east wing used to house servants' quarters while the west wing contained coach house, stables, tack room and forge, with saddlery above. Mr Firmstone's family has lived at the Grade II listed red brick building for more than 160 years.

Poison Boy top for teens

A SCHEME encouraging young people to read is entering its third year.

The Dudley Teen Book Award gives youngsters from the borough the chance to vote for their favourite authors.

This year 255 youngsters voted online and through their schools with Fletcher Moss chosen top author for his book Poison Boy.

Dudley librarian Donna Taylor said "We are very proud of the success the award has had in reinvigorating a love of reading in the young, and we hope it continues."

Music in pipes line

A PIPE band is looking to drum up support for new members.

The Wolverhampton Pipe Band won its first contest in Scotland last year and holds practice sessions in Wednesday on Tuesday nights. Visit www.wolvespb.org.uk for further information

Wife of drug baron kicked out of nursing



Struck off – former nurse Luan Anslow

THE wife of Black Country drugs lord John Anslow has been struck off the nursing register after laundering cash for her husband.

Luan Anslow stashed some of the proceeds from her husband John's drug dealing operation in her bank account, a hearing was told. The nurse, who worked in the emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital, spent £28,000 on cars.

John Anslow became Britain's most wanted man when he escaped from a prison van in January 2012 and fled to northern Cyprus. The 33-year-old, from Tipton, is currently serving a combined 29-year sen-

tence – 22 years for conspiracy to supply cocaine and cannabis and seven years and two months for his violent prison escape.

His wife was convicted of transferring and concealing criminal property last May at Wolverhampton Crown Court and sentenced to 18 months' jail suspended for two years. She was also ordered to carry out 220 hours of unpaid work and to pay £27,999 or risk a year in jail.

A hearing of the Nursing and Midwifery Council in London, which Anslow did not attend, saw the former nurse kicked out of the profession due to her criminal past. The

allegation was that her fitness to practice was impaired because of her conviction. Her representative Alexander Dos Santos said she regretted the actions which led to her conviction.

But panel chairman Lucinda Barnett said: "Mrs Anslow had involved herself, and benefited from, an illegal enterprise relating to money obtained by drug trafficking. She had clearly disregarded the law and therefore breached her responsibilities as a registered nurse."

It was ordered that Anslow's name be removed from the nursing register.

Motorist killed himself after hit-and-run death

A DRINK-DRIVER who knocked down a great-grandfather, who later died, killed himself as police got closer to charging him, an inquest heard.

Stephen Johnson, aged 41, had driven to buy a takeaway curry despite having been drinking for three hours when he hit 85-year-old Bernard Betts as the pensioner was walking his dog in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath.

On turning up at friend Philip Davy's brother's house with food down his top, he told Mr Davy another car had crashed into him and driven off.

But a week later, Mr Davy, who worked for Mr Johnson's paving company Pave To Perfection, was told by his brother in a pub that the 41-year-old had knocked Mr Betts down.

Mr Davy told police, who then interviewed Mr Johnson but he still denied knocking down the pensioner.

On February 3 last year, three weeks after he had been hit in the road outside his house, Mr Betts died at Russells Hall Hospital.

On March 20 last year, Mr Johnson killed himself. His mother found him dead in bed at his home in Stourbridge, the inquest was told.

At an inquest at Dudley Coroner's Court last week Pc Chris Blount said: "If he (Mr Johnson) hadn't committed suicide he would have faced charges."

Debris from the scene of the crash matched Mr Johnson's car.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain said Mr Betts' death was caused by a chest infection and head and pelvic injuries suffered in the crash.

Mr Betts left a widow Lilian, aged 84. Their son Les, 65, said: "The inquest finally gives us some closure."

Chaos on stage with showtunes



At the piano is Jayne Saunders, of West Bromwich, and, back left, is Liz Woodhouse, of Tipton and Sarah Chater, of Tividale

SHOWTUNES will serenade audiences as performers from an operatic company take to the stage.

Members of Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society, known as Chaos, have been busy in rehearsals ready for their show-stopping performance. The show called Strictly Chaos is hitting the stage at Netherton Arts Centre, in Northfield Road, for three performances from tonight to Saturday.

Around 40 songs feature throughout the musical revue, from theatre-land classics to contemporary rock. Songs from West End shows including the Sound of Music and Blood Brothers are part of the show.

Spokesman Paul Murdock said performers, both children and adults, had created a vibrant atmosphere in rehearsals.

"Everyone enjoys coming together for the show. It allows everyone the chance to shine. We are known for our dramatic performances but this

revue is good for those who prefer to sing and dance," he added. Rehearsals have been taken place since the start of the year, led by musical director Trevor Collin and producer-choreographer Salli Woodhouse.

Shows start at 7.30pm each night. All tickets cost £9 and to buy them call the box office on 0121 585 7380 or visit www.chaosoperatics.co.uk

The operatic company is also on the look out for performers, especially men, for its next show Mack and

revue is good for those who prefer to sing and dance," he added. Rehearsals have been taken place since the start of the year, led by musical director Trevor Collin and producer-choreographer Salli Woodhouse.

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NEWS in brief

Music festival will be returning

ORGANISERS of a music festival, held for the first time in Dudley, are hoping to build on its success for next year.

More than 1,200 people attended the Love Music Hate Racism Festival at Dudley Town Hall on April 26. Bands from the Black Country and elsewhere in the Midlands played on two stages. Visitors could also browse stalls. The event, organised by Trade Unions and Labour, was one of three Love Music Hate Racism festivals in the UK.

New owner for heating business

THE ownership of a Brierley Hill heating business has changed for the second time in three years.

AmbiRad in Fens Pool Avenue is now part of the American group Nortek, which paid £154 million to buy the heating, ventilation and air conditioning division of Thomas & Betts Corporation.

AmbiRad say there will be no be any affect on its operation as a result of the deal. The 35-year-old company has an annual turnover of more than £30m.

Merson to speak at club's dinner

FORMER England, Villa and Walsall footballer Paul Merson is to be the guest speaker at a cricket club's annual dinner.

The former Arsenal star, who also managed Saddlers, will be talking about the World Cup at Beacon Cricket Club's dinner at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley hill, on June 12 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £40 available by calling 07946 587290 or 07971 077870.

Ex-Villa stars to help raise funds

FORMER Aston Villa stars will line up to play in a charity football match in aid of Beacon Centre for the Blind as part of a fun day on May 18 to raise funds for the Sedgely-based charity. Kick-off is 1.30pm at Hedgesford Town FC. To reserve a space on the coach from Sedgely email fundraising@beacon4blind.co.uk

Garden open day

A GARDEN open day is taking place in Clent next month, raising money for nearby St Leonard's Church. The event will be at Ivytree House, Bromsgrove Road, June 7 and 8, 2 to 5pm both days.

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IN MY VIEW



WITH MARK ANDREWS

A PLANNING application submitted to Wolverhampton Council last week sought permission for 'The reconfiguration of existing signage suite'. Or, in English, 'moving the signs outside McDonalds'.

Having just returned from a short break in Holland, three things spring to mind. Firstly, what a beautiful corner of the world it is, with its elegant architecture, lovingly preserved windmills and scenic canals.

If only we were half so good at making the most of our canals and old buildings in the Black Country, then it would be a much better place to live, work and shop.

Secondly, it did strike me how absurd it was that it took just 55 minutes to fly from Birmingham to Amsterdam, the journey ends up taking more than six hours by the time you have negotiated security and customs at either end, found somewhere affordable to park, and spent the customary half hour haggling with the car hire people on arrival.

But most of all, it struck me how terrifying it can be walking around otherwise genteel towns and cities which have been taken over by militant cyclists.

It all looks so respectful in Van Der Valk, where little old ladies in period costume gently amble over the bridges, smiling at the pedestrians walking by.

But in reality, they just come whizzing at you from all directions, manically ringing their bells to order you out of their path. The only thing you can do is play hopscotch as you seek to avoid one after another.

And if you're driving, it is even more un-nerving, as they just shoot across the road at their designated crossing points, without giving a second thought to what might be coming in their direction. Convinced of their own invincibility, these people never give a second thought to the Green Cross code.

But strangest of all is the zeal that people in that country have for cycling. To them, particularly the young, cycling is not simply a hobby or a means of transport, it is a way of life that must never be questioned.

Perhaps it is the result of years of indoctrination in schools, or maybe just something which has been ingrained into their culture through the centuries. But it does serve as a worrying pointer as to what could happen over here in years to come.

Politicians talk benignly about 'the need to encourage cycling'.

Cycling has its place, and maybe if more people were encouraged to use this means of transport, there could be a reduction in congestion on our roads. However, if anybody wants to see what happens when it is unquestioningly accepted as something which should be encouraged at all costs, they should go to Amsterdam.



A nibbler machine was used on blocks in Walsall



Oldbury's Albright and Wilson Houses come down



Grange Court in Wolverhampton, demolished 2009

A history of the high life in Black Country

JONATHAN PRITCHARD reports on an archive which has been delving into the past of high rise living

FOR some they are a blot on the landscape.

But, love them, or loathe them, tower blocks have been a familiar site on the Black Country's skyline for decades and have provided a place to call home for thousands of people.

Now a new archive is documenting the history of the tower blocks which sprang up – and came back down again – since 1960s onwards.

The archive has been set up by a group called Distinctly Black Country, which studies the history of the area.

Landmarks

Members are appealing for help from members of the public to help them collate details of the region's landmarks.

Paul Quigley, project researcher, said: "Council housing is a big part of the architecture of the Black Country, but there is very little written about it's history. They have affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have lived there. We are focused on the tower blocks of the 1960s at the moment, but we are welcoming any help we can get from the public."

Thirty volunteers have been working on the project since autumn last year, along with staff based at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

They have been collecting the materials to go on a website on the subject, as well as stories from people whose lives are connected to the blocks.

Their investigations have so far focused on 20 tower blocks in the centre of the Black Country across Bilston, Darlaston, Tipton, Wednesbury, Wednesfield and Willenhall.



Dave Cocker, aged 56, at Russell Court in Wolverhampton, where he lives

Mr Quigley said: "They are quite a controversial type of architecture but for all their bad points they are still a big part of the area."

"People think that their experience in the tower blocks doesn't mean anything. But what we are trying to say is that if you don't record your memories then it is going to be lost forever."

"It is the sort of thing that future generations will be interested in."

The work carried out by researchers has led to the discovery of maps and original planning documents, along

with the council reports which led to the demolition of flats. There are also written testimonies from former tenants, more than 150 photographs, and a comprehensive list of all 276 tower blocks ever built in the Black Country, produced by author Miles Glendinning.

Mr Quigley said there are a range of interesting items on the website including Butterfield Court in Eves Hill, Dudley, which featured on the iconic cover of the 1971 Led Zeppelin IV album. The flats were home to the band's drummer John Bonham who died in 1980.

Mr Quigley added the archive contained other interesting facts: "There is a Wednesfield tenants handbook, which also has a 'care of a bath' section, which we found hilarious."

"There are also pictures of Grange Court, just off the Ring Road in Wolverhampton which was described as the city's first high rise."

And he went on to add: "Bolton Court in Sandwell was called a 'gateway to the town' meaning Tipton, by the chair of housing when it was opened in 1965. It became part of the huge demolition programme by Sandwell Council, more than 60 blocks, and now only the car parks remain."

But while there is already a wide range of material for web users to browse through, project leaders are now on the lookout for further items and stories to add, as well as new volunteers to help with the investigation.

Mr Quigley said: "The materials we've found so far provide a great insight into the blocks themselves and also the lives led within them, but we are always looking to add more to the website."

One person who is championing the positive aspects of high rise life is Dave Cocker, who has lived in tower blocks for many years, and says he has happy memories of the experience.

He currently resides in Russell Court in Graiseley, Wolverhampton, but had previously lived in Wesley Court in Portobello, Willenhall. He said: "When I lived at Wesley Court the community spirit was very good. You knew everyone on your level, if not the block. We used to be quite naughty back then because we would go onto the roof and have barbecues. We were all adults and we were quite safe but we would go up there and sunbathe, or read, and just relax."

Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing items as part of the project should visit www.distinctlyblackcountry.org.uk/blockcapital or discuss the project with Chaz Mason on 01902 552040/552194.

POLITICS



WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

GEORGE Osborne came under fire from Black Country MPs Valerie Vaz and Ian Austin recently at a time when the Chancellor is basking in the warm glow of an economic recovery.

And he says there are well over one million more people in work now than when the Coalition came to power. Dudley North's Mr Austin is not so sure the good times have reached the West Midlands.

He said: "The only people who are not worse off than they were four years ago are the super-rich? His wilful refusal to accept what every ordinary family in the country know from their daily experience just goes to show how out of touch he is."

But the Chancellor had a few statistics suggesting he thought things were going pretty well in Dudley.

"The honourable gentleman talks about who has felt the benefit of growth. What about the people in his constituency who have got a job, where unemployment has fallen by 17 per cent and youth unemployment is down 18 per cent? What about the 1.5 million people who have got jobs as a result of this Government working through their long-term economic plan?"

And Labour MP Miss Vaz, who represents Walsall South, said: "According to the Office for National Statistics, unemployment in the West Midlands has risen to 8.2 per cent, can the Chancellor explain why?"

But Mr Osborne said unemployment in Walsall South is down 20 per cent and that the number of people in work in the West Midlands dropped while Labour were in power. Mr Osborne has plenty of numbers at his disposal and they appear to be on his side. But the success of his latest budget will be judged on how much money people think they have in their pocket and businesses have in the bank – and whether or not they spend it.

It's sort of obligatory at the moment to talk about Ukip in any politics column. The not-quite new kids on the political block look set to do very well in the European elections but with their new status and popularity comes a heck of a lot of scrutiny.

The moronic individual from London who suggested Dudley's Lenny Henry should move to a 'black country', when in fact he was from the Black Country all along, has stood aside. But Ukip is finding comments people made years ago are coming back to haunt them.

So it was with Walsall Council candidate David Wycherley with his question over the eligibility of Mo Farah to have competed for Team GB in the Olympics, given that he was born in Somalia.

The fact Mr Farah is a British citizen who spent the majority of his life in this country appeared not to give him the vital clue.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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THE recent revelations that BBC's Panorama team brought to our television screens were heartbreaking – I was moved to tears.

I applaud the brave whistleblowers, the dignity of victims' families and the diligence of the programme makers, whose combined actions have hopefully instigated justice.

The documentary has now sparked an inquiry by Essex Police on alleged abuse and an appeal for members of the public, who wish to report allegations of crime relating to the hidden camera film footage, to come forward.

I do believe, both personally and as the principal representative of my organisation which supports private sector care providers throughout the West Midlands, I have an obligation to bring some sense of perspective to the matter.

While sadly it is still necessary for such investigative journalism to uncover alleged cases of secretive elder abuse, the incidents we viewed are extremely rare and the vast majority of caring on a national and regional level is excellent.

My worry is that those elderly, frail

and dependent people who desperately need more watchful care could understandably refuse a residential setting package that would enhance their living experience.

I can only encourage their families and loved-ones not to vilify all carers because of what they have seen. The vast majority are professional, compassionate and give above and beyond their contractual obligations.

DEBBIE LE QUESNE
Chief Executive
West Midlands Care Association
Halesowen

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WHY all the fuss about the new regulations regarding mortgage applications?

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If you then find it is not for you, at least you will have some money that you can go and have some fun with.

R WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Farewell to a GP who really cares

I FELT I had to write about the sad departure of Dr S Johal from the Bull Street Clinic, Lower Gornal. I have had the privilege of being one of Dr Johal's patients for the last three years and I am gutted that she has left.

She is the most wonderful GP I have ever known. I felt she was a friend as well as my doctor. She is such a kind, caring and genuine person who did so much for me. She has such qualities that you can't be trained in and you can't get paid for, these come from the heart.

Her empathy is second to none. When my baby grandson died she was upset for me and even gave me a hug, how many GPs would do that? Many of the medical profession would do well to take a leaf out of her book.

She really is an angel, I can't praise her enough. She knows how highly I thought of her and she said to me she hopes she doesn't change, but I'm certain she won't, she is humble and modest and this will always hold her in good stead.

So thank you Dr Johal from the bottom of my heart, for never giving up on me. Our loss is Gornal's gain, and I hope you and your family will continue to be showered with life's blessings. God bless you.

J BLAKE
Lower Gornal

At the least, make HS2 British built

SO they are going to inflict this HS2 white elephant upon us. We do not know the true cost, £50 billion is certain to be a very optimistic guesstimate. As for the so called benefits — who really knows?

Articles talk about reducing the time to get to London, is nobody going to be travelling north, assuming Londoners know where Birmingham, let alone want to go there. As for going any further north, there will probably be no money left to extend it after 2026. They are not going to connect it through to the Channel tunnel, so only Londoners are allowed to go to Paris and Brussels.

It would be some compensation if some of that £50bn(?) stayed in the UK. Where will the rails be made, China? Where will the rolling stock be built, Germany? Will it be constructed by a British company with British workers?

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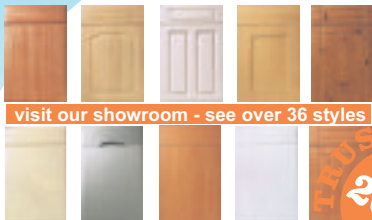
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Wed 28th	HISTORY & SCIENCE MUSEUM LONDON	£27.00	£26.00	Fri 11th	MYSTERY DAY OUT & LUNCH	£35.00	£32.50
Thu 29th	BRECON MOUNTAIN STEAM RAILWAY	£35.00	£33.50	Sat 12th	HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW	£55.00	£52.50
JUNE				Thu 17th	TORRINGTON LANDRU	£26.00	£25.00
Sun 8th	WADDESDON MANOR & GARDENS (NT)	£39.50	£38.00	Sat 19th	KENWOOD HOUSE, LONDON (EH)	£27.00	£26.00
Wed 11th	SOUTHPORT & CROSBY BEACH	£26.00	£25.00	Sun 20th	BRISTOL HARBOUR FESTIVAL	£26.00	£25.00
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Before

After

Sound career choice for a Black Country rocker

FROM rigging up the PA system at Dudley Council meetings to touring the world with Liam Gallagher, life has taken a rock 'n' roll turn for Black Country sound engineer Jonathan Simcox.

The 35-year-old from Wollaston, first sat in front of a mixing desk as a teenager at the former Ice House Studios in Envile Street, Stourbridge, after his mother phoned to see if her music fanatic son could see how it was done. He hasn't looked back.

After paying his dues on the tribute act circuit and monitoring the sound for councillors at meetings, the former Ridgewood High School pupil is now on many top bands' tour crews.

Guitarist

Now guitarist Jon, who lives in London, has been announced as a fully-fledged member of Quinton-based rock band The Twang, with full writing credits on their new album Neontwang and will be taking the stage on tour with them.

"It has all gone really fast when I look back at it, I have done eight world tours in the last eight years," he said.

Jon, who studied sound design at Sandwell College after leaving school in the 1990s, got his first job with Robin 2 owner Mike Hamblett's Sub Zero where he learned the ropes of being a monitor engineer. He moved on to working for Stage Audio Services based in Wordsley, which provides equipment and services for venues.

After honing his skills at venues like Wolverhampton Civic and Wulfrun Halls, Jon was being sought to work on major tours. It was while working with Primal Scream that he faced nerve-wracking moments at the first Stone Roses reunion concert staged at Heaton Park, Manchester, in 2012.



Jonathan Simcox started his musical sound engineering career in Stourbridge

"Primal Scream got stuck in traffic meanwhile I was up on stage in front of 60,000 people. In the end they turned up and just had to run straight on stage with no checks or anything."

"Fortunately it went well and Bobby Gillespie the singer came up to me afterwards and said how good it all was."

He has also recently been touring non-stop with Beady Eye, Liam Gallagher's post Oasis band.

He said of the Mancunian wildman: "He is everything you would expect him to be. It has been quite testing at times. He always wants it louder but off stage he is much more friendly."

It's a wrap for growth after showcase success

A VINYL wrapping company is preparing to expand - weeks after it carried out a 'showcase' job for a nearby haulage firm.

Wrap Kings, in Maypole Fields, Cradley Heath, covered a newly-purchased lorry with various images to mark the 10th anniversary in business for an Oldbury company.

And co-owner of Wrap Kings Ben Hamblin announced the firm would be moving to a new workshop in Hayes Lane in Lye in June.

It will see the firm's base expand three-fold and result in a new graphic designer and vehicle wrapper being employed, therefore increasing the number of staff working there from three to five.

Mr Hamblin, aged 25, from Wollaston, said: "We're extremely proud of the work we do - on daily commutes I can pass a number of vehicles and projects that we have completed, which fills me with satisfaction."

Inspiration

"The success means we are proving really busy with our diary booked up for the next eight weeks, this is why we need to expand."

Among the work which has been carried out in recent months is a monster truck for The Little Pot Transport, which operates from its base at The Haulage Yard, Trinity Street, in Oldbury.

The commemorative designs which were realised using the number 10 as inspiration included ten pin bowling, a 10mph sign and Bo Derek, famous for acting in the 1979 film 10.

Mr Hamblin, who runs Wrap Kings with 27-year-old brother Will Hamblin, said: "The lorry was a showcase job to work on, although I must admit I didn't know some of the images on it as I'm too young."

The company provides vinyl wrapping for a range of items including for



Little Pot Transport owner, Julian Pottinger, aged 45 from Dudley



Various images highlighting the number 10, including Wayne Rooney



Bo Derek and Ben 10 among the artwork created by the vehicle wrappers cars, vans and trucks. Both brothers are 3M Authorised Vehicle Wrappers.

Ben Hamblin, a former student at Ridgewood High School in Stourbridge, launched the firm seven years ago after leaving education.



Tenpin bowling is represented on Wrap Kings' unique lorry designs

He said: "It is a lot of hard work and late nights, but come the end of it, it can be worth it."

"I'm really pleased with how we are getting on and look forward to the expansion."

Mothers show solidarity in campaign outside store



Breast is best say mothers Leanne Shepherd with Alfie, Emma Parkes with Milly and Rachael Doré with Nancy

DOZENS of mothers gathered to show their support for breastfeeding in public after a mother alleged she was asked to leave a sports store for feeding her baby.

The show of solidarity for the Free to Feed movement was outside Sports Direct in the Merry Hill shopping centre. That store was chosen was due to the alleged treatment Wioletta Komar had at the Nottingham branch of the sports chain, where she claimed she was told she could not breast feed her

baby because it was 'against company policy'.

Rachael Doré, a nurse and mother-of-two, was one of the organisers and attended with her 10-week-old daughter Nancy. The 29-year-old said: "This is just to raise awareness that mothers should be able to feed wherever they want. With all the bad publicity it makes mothers nervous to come out in public and feel OK to breastfeed. You are worried about comments you might receive."

Emma Parkes, a student and mother-of-five, aged 31, attended with her 10-month-old daughter Milly. She

said: "We hear it again and again, people being asked to leave a public place because they're breastfeeding. If people object to breastfeeding in public, mothers feel like they can't leave the house for the first six months after their baby is born or they might decide to bottle feed."

Student Leanne Shepherd, with 11-month-old son Alfie, added: "There's nobody complaining about the images in the front of stores like Ann Summers, so why are they doing it about breastfeeding?"

Staff at the Sports Direct in Merry Hill declined to comment.

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Picture plea for school reunion

FORMER pupils school are being asked to bring their old photographs to a school reunion next month. More than 70 people are expected to turn out to the reunion for former pupils of Tividale's primary and secondary schools on May 13, starting at 11am.

The event at Tividale Football Club in Hawfield Road, is open to any youngsters who were at Tividale Primary School, Tividale Secondary Modern or Tividale Comprehensive from the 1940s onwards.

The event is being organised by Wendy Squires, now 73, who was a pupil at the primary school from 1946 to 1953. Mrs Squires, who was Wendy Wall in her school days, has been organising the events for the last five years, and on previous occasions old pupils from as far afield as Vancouver had turned out.

It's rags to riches as dancers leap to win



Tazmyn Rickards flies high before other group members

THEY look like the cast of a top West End production, and now they have the fame to go with it.

Members of Flare Dance Academy in Dudley are dancing for joy after winning one of the top prizes at a national competition. The team of boys and girls dressed in rags managed to impress the judges at the Eurodance competition in Brean Sands, Somerset, with their interpretation of Les Misérables in the show dance category.

It was the first year that the school, run by 37-year-old Emma Brookes, has taken part in the category, so they where even more surprised when they stormed their way to the top and took home the winner's trophy.

She said: "The group has gone from strength to strength over the last seven years and they have performed beyond my expectation." They meet at Coseley School in Herne Drive. Claire Hall, the mother of 14-year-old dancer Elle Hall, said: "It is absolutely amazing that they have come-back winners."

The group is now looking at entering more competitions and even plan to compete abroad.

Devil of a night at debut album launch

AN UNSIGNED band from Dudley is gearing up for a special gig near their home town. Netherton-based four piece rock band, Devil Red, will be playing at Mochers, Stourbridge, on May 30 as it embark on the release of its first EP album.

The group, made up of singer Grant Silk, guitarist Anthony Lunn, drummer Mike Piggott and bass player Jordan Staten, has been playing in the Black Country for the past four years and has supported former Iron Maidens frontman Blaze Bailey and many top tribute acts.

Anthony said: "We also chose Mochers, Stourbridge, or this event due to the quality of sound and the hard working efforts from the management to support live local bands and taking the time helping our event to be a success."

The band's keen following by fans online has also landed them a spot on a tour of Poland this summer. Hard copies of the EP will be available to buy at the album launch.

Push for more security at schools after teacher killed

MORE airport-style security and bag searches should be introduced in West Midlands schools, governors have said after the fatal stabbing of a teacher in Yorkshire.

Spanish teacher Ann Maguire, aged 61, who was due to retire in September, was fatally injured last week at Corpus Christi Catholic College in Leeds.

A 15-year-old boy remains in custody and West Yorkshire Police have confirmed that Mrs Maguire died from multiple stab wounds.

School governors in the West Midlands say this case shows the pressing need for increased security. It comes after it was revealed earlier this month that 12 children have been excluded from schools in Wolverhampton for going in with weapons. Seven of the cases involved knives. The city's council is the only authority in the Black Country to hold such figures for the past two academic years.

Councillor Elizabeth Walker, former children's services chief in Dudley, is a governor at both Wollescote and St James's primary schools in Dudley and a member of the corporation of

Dudley College. She said: "Weapons are easily available for those who are so disposed to carry one. As the culture grows for stabbings, people may consider it a way to defend themselves.

"There's also so much stress on young people with their emotions, exam pressures and things like cyber bullying to contend with.

"There's a case for airport-style security in some schools. I know it would make some schools look like a fortress but life is more precious. This sort of incident is caused by the society in which we live. There is so much aggression in young people too."

Bid to build youth skills

A TRUST which helps young people find employment within the construction industry has linked with Dudley Council on its latest project.

The Construction Youth Trust aims to work with the authority on a new course which will offer training and support for job seekers.

The trust has run eight courses in Dudley borough since June 2013, reaching 135 people in the 16 to 30 age group.

Officials want to target towns where there is a high level of disadvantaged young people by taking a mobile classroom into the heart of the community.

Young people are offered taster sessions and short accredited courses relating to the construction industry.

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Popular Vulcan will make an appearance (Picture: Andrew Brown)



Red Arrows' display (Picture: Jamie Hunter)

COMPETITION

Popular air show all set for take off

HAVING run for more than 20 years, and winning two major awards last year, the RAF Cosford Air Show is a popular day out with children and parking free.

The Chronicle series is giving readers the chance to attend this wonderful experience on Sunday, June 8 with eight pairs of tickets to be won.

Whether it's reminiscing about the 'Good Old Days' while watching the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight or standing in awe of the Red Arrows who are celebrating their 50th Anniversary, the six-hour flying display holds delights for all.

Other military aircraft in the flying display are the RAF Chinook and Army Apache taking part in an exciting demonstration of their combat capabilities along with the Tucano displaying in a special 'Lest We Forget' paint scheme. Civilian aircraft include the Breitling Wing Walkers, the Canberra PR9 and the ever popular Vulcan.

There is a large indoor craft fair along with three hangars containing interactive displays showcasing the best of both the Royal Air Force and local organisations, including open aircraft allowing you to sit in the cockpits.

Arena

Outside there will be a funfair, arena displays including Field Gun teams, food vendors and traders.

Tickets are £20 in advance, £25 on the day (cash only and subject to availability) and free for children under 16 when they are accompanied by an adult. Car parking is free.

Tickets can be purchased at www.cosfordairshow.co.uk or by calling the credit/debit card 24-hour ticket line: 0871 230 1083 (calls are 10p per min plus network charges). All profits go to local and service charities.

COSFORD AIR SHOW 2014

To be in with a chance to win just answer the following:

Which special anniversary will the RAF Red Arrows be celebrating at the RAF Cosford Air Show?

a. 25 b. 50 c. 100

Send answers on a postcard to: Chronicle Air competition (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: May 15.

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TUESDAY

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WEDNESDAY

9.45am	Pilates
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6.00pm	Insanity™
6.30pm	Step
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Helping youth to be independent

TEN young adults were celebrating after successfully completing a council's independent travel training programme.

Each person was presented with certificates for achieving an entry level course, run by Dudley Council, called working towards independent travel. It is accredited by the Open College Network (West Midlands Region).

The course is aimed at equipping young people with the skills and knowledge to travel on their own for school, college and in their leisure time, hugely impacting on their own lives and that of their families too.

The scheme covers issues including road safety awareness, journey planning, using public transport, personal safety, contingency planning and money skills.

Former Albion steward died after walking in front of car

WEST Bromwich Albion's former assistant chief steward was hit by a car when he walked out from behind a bus, an inquest heard.

Michael 'Mick' Hodgetts was knocked down as he stepped out from behind the bus he had just alighted from at the junction of the A4123 Wolverhampton Road and Brandhall Road in Oldbury. He died from his injuries.

The 54-year-old had been out for a

drink and was yards from his home. The car that hit him was travelling between 28 and 33mph on a road with a 40mph limit.

The driver of the orange Fiat Punto, Parmjit Singh Bains, who was heading into Birmingham to work in a bar, would have had 0.8 of a second to see Mr Hodgetts, police estimated. That's around half of the 'thinking time' a driver needs to react.

Now a bank worker, Mr Bains, 26, of Russells Hall, Dudley, said: "I saw him

at the point of impact. My recollection was I did not have time to brake."

Smethwick Coroner's Court heard that a paramedic helped Mr Hodgetts, of Queensway, before an ambulance arrived. He died at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on October 5.

Senior Coroner Robin Balmain said cause of death were fatal injuries to the head and brain as a result of a road traffic collision. He said: "There was nothing unusual or improper about the manner of the driving of the car."



Collision — Mick Hodgetts

Merry Hill is to be re-branded

A £407 MILLION take over deal of the Merry Hill Shopping Centre has been completed.

Intu Properties will take over the running of the Brierley Hill based complex after buying half of the centre which had been owned by Westfield. The complex will be known as Intu Merry Hill and a re-branding has been launched.

Its new website intu.co.uk/merryhill has also gone live and posters and leaflets are being distributed throughout the complex. The company already owns the Trafford Centre in Manchester, Metrocentre in Gateshead and Lakeside, Essex.

Plans for a major revamp of the site are in the pipeline. The other owners are Australian investment body QIC.

Dirty weekend to help good causes



Lisa and Rob Edwards ready to face a new challenge

CRAWLING through mud and clambering up walls, Lisa and Rob Edwards are proving their toughness with five challenges for charity. The couple from Lower Gornal have completed the Birmingham Half Marathon and Shakespeare Half Marathon but now have sights set on the world's longest assault course.

The challenges are to raise money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity — after friend Nina Gayden had a still birth, another friend Alison Jones and Lisa's mother Jacquie Pearson were diagnosed with breast cancer, all in the past two years.

Mrs Edwards, aged 34, said: "After a dreadful two years, I decided to try and do something, give myself a challenge and get sponsorship for the charities which can help."

Mrs Gayden is now pregnant while Mrs Jones is recovering following chemotherapy and Mrs Pearson has just finished her chemotherapy.

The couple will take part in the Rat Race Dirty Weekend, the largest obstacle course in the world, in Lincolnshire on Saturday. Visit virginmoneygiving.com/lisaandrob

Giving homeless youngsters a roof

IT has been described as 'B&B with love' and has helped around 250 homeless young people to get back on their feet.

Now the YMCA Black Country Group's Open Door project, which helps teenagers to get off the streets, is celebrating its fifth anniversary. The project aids mainly 16 and 17-year-olds to get into homes of their own and further education after finding themselves homeless.

It does so thanks to a small army of generous volunteers who open their own homes to take in the youngsters.

Around 70 households across the Black Country have signed up to the scheme during its five-year life and currently hosts provide more than 12,000 nights of accommodation per year.

Open Door project manager Nathan Adams said: "One of our hosts described it as B&B with love."

For details contact Rachael Taylor on 0121 524 1974.

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A history of the Bodfish family tree

MY TIME OVER 50S

THE April meeting commenced with a talk from Mary Bodfish entitled "Singularities of Bodfish".

This talk was all about the Bodfish family tree. As a teenager Mary was shown four marriage certificates by her father, the earliest being the wedding in 1838 in Tadmorton near Banbury, of her great great grandfather John Bodfish. As a result, Mary was completely hooked on researching her family tree.

She went further back in time following the name back to Northamptonshire. In the 1980s Mary was contacted by Ralph Bodfish from California, who was looking to link the American Bodfishes to the English line. A Robert Bodfish had emigrated to Massachusetts a short time after the Mayflower had landed.

The family name gradually spread across America to California, with a Bodfish Park in Barnstable, Massachusetts, and a Bodfish town in California. The name even migrated north with the whaling fleet into Alaska.

Mary's research shows that anyone, anywhere with the Bodfish name is from the one English family.

The Bodfish name has also been found in Macclesfield taking the name back to the 12th century.

Thanks were given to Mary for such an interesting talk and introducing some very entertaining ancestors.

The next meeting is on May 28 when Mr Ray Sturdy will be introducing "The see and hear quiz".

Sausage making demo by butchers



Butchers Steve, left, and Mark Turner

Outgoing committee praised

THE meeting was opened by chairman Marlene Stratton who welcomed all members and visitors.

Marlene thanked the outgoing committee members for their work over the years and each one was presented with a thank you card and a lovely rose bush. Beryl who is not retiring was given a china plant pot.

After guild business the chairman introduced the day's speaker John Billingham.

PELSALL 'E' TG

THE outing on April 16 was to Ashbourne in Derbyshire. The first stop was at Fairway Garden Centre for a browse and shop before moving on to Ashbourne town centre for lunch.

Carsington Water was the afternoon venue.

At the guild meeting on April 17 the formal opening section included reports from the treasurer and the Lunch Club and Walking Groups.

Speakers for the evening, Mark and Steve Turner, Pel-sall's local award-winning Butchers, gave a talk on their family history and meat in general, which they followed with a sausage making demonstration.

Four members tried their hands at sausage making and after much laughter at their efforts, were allowed to take their 'produce' home.

The remainder of the sausages were sold in aid of the Air Ambulance charity which, together with the Mark & Steve's donation of their fee, raised £90.

Carol Manlove and Pat Westwood were joint winners of the monthly competition for the most popular decorative plate, and Hilda Craddock won the raffle.

BLACKHEATH M TWG

His talk was 'Images of Worcestershire, with slides included views of places like Newnham Bridge, the bridge over the river and of the cathedral. Beryl Hartley gave the vote of thanks. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath, at 10.30am.

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Comedy stars sign up for youth theatre gala

TWO big name comedy stars have been signed up for a charity gala being held to raise cash for a West Midlands youth theatre.

Jon Richardson, star of 8 out of 10 Cats, and comedy show panelist Josh Widdicombe have been added to the bill for the Hilarity Charity Gala Night.

It is being organised by Wolverhampton Central Youth Theatre to raise money to secure the long-term future of the group.

The 30-year-old youth theatre has dealt a blow earlier this year when it was announced it would lose its £13,000 a year grant amid voluntary sector cuts by Wolverhampton City Council.

Thrilled

Although it has managed to secure its future for the next 12 months, the group is raising funds to try to secure its longer term outlook.

Bosses said they were thrilled to have been able to secure two big names from the world of comedy to appear at the gala.

The event is being held at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton on May 29.

It is being organised by former youth theatre member Tom Parry, who is one third of comedy sketch group Pappys, of BBC3's Badults.

Josh Widdicombe, who appeared on The Last Leg during the Paralympics and other shows such as Mock the Week, performed at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall recently.

He said: "It is an honour to be supporting such a great charity on such a brilliant line up of comics."

Richardson has appeared on Have I Got News for You, Never Mind the Buzzcocks and Live at the Apollo.

They will join Josie Long, who has



Signed up – Jon Richardson



An honour – Josh Widdicombe

been on Have I Got News for You, Peep Show's Issy Suttie, sketch group Pappys and Welsh comedian Elis James, from 8 out of 10 Cats on the bill.

Profile

The event will be hosted by Daniel Kitson, whose stand up show has been performed at theatres across the country.

CYT director Jane Ward MBE said: "We are entering a period of new reality for youth arts and many groups across the country are slowly closing

as subsidy from local authorities disappears.

"It is essential that young people in cities such as Wolverhampton feel they have opportunities not just as teenagers but also as they mature and need support and training from organisations such as CYT to help them build their career.

"It's really amazing for us that comedians with such a national profile understand our work and our vision."

Tickets for the show cost £20 or £15 for concessions.

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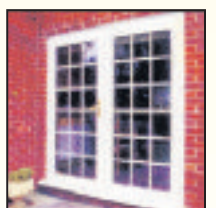
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CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTW similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTW sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281

RETIRE happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to lose, call me. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom. 35-45. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543



SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721

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MALE 59, would like to meet lady of same age, for friendship and nights out. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4384059

MARTIN 43, 5ft 10 medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, likes country walks, meals out, looking for slim medium build female 40-45. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4384509

MARK fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411989

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335

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Luxury London without the frills

Leon Burakowski visits a smart but affordable hotel as part of a theatre trip to London's West End

A LONDON break remains one of the most popular mini-holidays in the UK and those looking for a smart hotel stay can experience affordable luxury at The Nadler Kensington.

Part of a three-hotel portfolio of stylish boutique places to stay, the Courtfield Gardens address is in a prime location in a quiet upmarket Kensington residential street but just a five minute walk from the bustle of Earl's Court.

Three properties have been sympathetically combined to create a stylish and comfortable 65-bedroom hotel with a choice of room styles from bijou single to deluxe and family suites.

The family room option includes a mini-kitchen with microwave and fridge, Nespresso coffee machine, large ensuite bathroom with bath and shower, HDTV with free internet access. This makes light self-catering a feasible option and, as a nice touch, you can even request from reception your very own rubber duck for bath time.

The 'affordable luxury' concept does away with expensive fuss and frills. So there is no restaurant, bar or spa. You get what counts, a comfortable and clean room, helpful and informative staff, with art decorated surroundings that befit a modern, quality hotel.

There is a facility to have breakfast delivered and the hotel has exclusive discount vouchers that can be used at several local restaurants, including a generous 30 per cent off at Gourmet Burger Kitchen on Earl's Court Road.

The hotel is within walking distance



The entrance to The Nadler Kensington



The London cast of Jersey Boys

of the Natural History, Science and Victoria & Albert museums. Earl's Court Underground Station is next to the popular exhibition halls and gives fast access to the shops and theatres of London's West End.

The London stay isn't really complete without a trip to a show. One of the most popular remains Jersey Boys, which won the Olivier award for best new musical in 2008. The story of 1960s and 70s hitmakers Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons recently moved to the famous Piccadilly Theatre, in Denman Street near Piccadilly Circus. It features some strong language but it is a funny and fast-moving production. It follows the blue collar boys from

the mean streets of New Jersey to the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame with such pop classics as Rag Doll, Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like A Man and My Eyes Adored You. Michael Watson recently took on the starring role as Frankie Valli and the show has extended its run until at least February 2015. Call the box office on 0844 412 6666 or visit the theatre's website.

For more information on The Nadler Kensington, where single rooms start from £107 and superior from £195 per room per night, call 0207 244 2255, email Kensington.info@thenadler.com. It also has sister hotels in Soho and Liverpool, for more information or to book see www.thenadler.com website.



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The secret of an amazing illusionist

Derren Brown, Infamous, Wolverhampton Grand
I HAVE been sworn to secrecy. Like anyone else who has seen TV illusionist Derren Brown's live show Infamous, I have been asked not to reveal what happens in his act.

That could be a problem for a reviewer but I am happy to pledge that no spoilers will be found here. I would not want to spoil a hugely enjoyable and frequently amazing night at

the theatre for those who have got a ticket. They will be selling fast once word gets around from Monday's sell-out show about his jaw-dropping, mind-boggling tricks.

He never suggests they are anything more than tricks but maintains the magic by not fully revealing how they are done. If Brown was less scrupulous he could no doubt make an equally lucrative living as a stage psychic or a card sharp.

The 43-year-old Londoner is without doubt a superb showman and his witty, rapid-fire delivery enhances his potent blend of conjuring, deception, memory techniques, body language reading, psychology and hypnosis.

Put simply, he makes the apparently impossible happen and that has a much greater impact on stage than on television.

Infamous continues to Saturday.
Leon Burakowski

Warm and witty Pam spreads joy

Pam Ayres
Birmingham Town Hall
HOW very reassuring that in these hurried high-tech days there is still a place in society for our Pam's poems.

Even those who don't remember her 1975 debut on Opportunity Knocks, where rhymes read in her Berkshire burr won her top prize and took her to the Royal Variety performance, seem to love her.

But despite the number of young faces in the audience, her main fan base lies with the more mature, the sort who take great delight in finishing off Pam's verses. This she did repeatedly last week and while I would normally wince, this time I didn't mind at all. That is the effect Pam has.

She spreads joy and light and leaves you feeling a little more at ease with the world. She interspersed poems with stories about her life, warm and funny anecdotes.

She treated us to one of our favourites I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth but otherwise the poet with 29,000 Twitter followers was very much of today.



Warren Sollars with feather boa as Marc Bolan of T.Rex

A night when we were boa to boogie

20th Century Boy, New Alexandra Theatre
THE feathers were flying — quite literally — as we sang, nodded our heads, got in the groove and waved our complimentary red boas.

Had the clouds of feathers floating in the air glued up the sound system we wondered, as the start was hit by a 40-minute delay? Whatever the technical difficulty, the wait was soon forgotten in a feast of glam rock revelry.

You didn't have to be a fan of this 70s superstar to enjoy the story of his search for success, his loves, de-

mons and all-to-soon death. This nippy production had the tragedy told through the eyes of his son Roland as he, himself, sought to find the truth and it worked sublimely.

This young and lively cast gave it their all. Warren Sollars as Marc brought this icon back to us for a while while Luke Bailey as his son emanated tenderness.

Dance routines were tight and the music gloriously loud.

20th Century Boy is coming to Wolverhampton Grand from June 30 to July 5.

Infectious folk worth catching

Moulettes
Robin 2, Bilston
KICKING off with Sing Unto Me, The Moulettes laid out their stall with harmonies producing orchestra-sized music. The voices of Hannah Miller and Ruth Skipper melded wonderfully with the harmonies of Eliza Jave, Emma Gatrill and Ollie Austin, as they filled the room with their original sound.

They were joined on stage by support act Kate Young, who added the rich strand of her fiddle playing to the proceedings.

The band uses a bewildering array of instruments including autoharp, bassoon, synths, cello and double bass. The obvious enjoyment of the group on stage was infectious and they moved from prog-rock to classical and back to thumping folk with ease.

One of the highlights was a wonderfully complex offering for Songbird. The Moulettes may not be as well-known as other 'folk orchestras' such as Bellowhead but don't underestimate their talent.

Danny Farragher

Success follows Embrace home

Albums

YORKSHIRE rock band Embrace return after an eight year musical absence with a self-titled album that should set them up for stadium-sized success and a remarkable comeback.

The album **Embrace** (on Cooking Vinyl) features uplifting rock anthems with a touch of electronics and the key track is Follow You Home, a Killers-like surefire hit. Tracks like Refugees, I Run and At Once seem to have found a happy and very lucrative medium between Coldplay and The Kaiser Chiefs.

Embrace are in concert on Saturday at the O2 Academy in Birmingham.

Paolo Nutini's comeback was worth the wait as **Caustic Love** (Atlantic) is a stunningly good modern soul album.

It draws on quality roots such as Sam Cooke and Otis Redding whilst feeling contemporary and, of course, having the distinctive rough yet soulful Nutini vocal. The last person to do something in a similar vein so very well was Amy Winehouse with Back to Black.

The key track is the epic Iron Sky with its sampled speech by Charles Chaplin from movie The Great Dictator calling for people to maintain their humanity in the machine age.

Other highlights include Let Me Down Easy, a song familiar to Paloma Faith fans but sampling the Betty LaVette 1965 soul classic and practically turning it into a duet, plus Scream (Funk My Life Up) which signals the Glaswegian singer/songwriter's switch from jaunty to funky.

Nutini has a sold out concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on May 30.

The Pixies (mark II, Kim Deal having left) have released **Indie Cindy** (Pixiesmusic) their first full studio album since 1991's classic Tromp le Monde,



Yorkshire band Embrace are having a major impact with their comeback album

made up from their recent EPs. The acerbic guitar style and Black Francis's declamatory vocals have changed little. The Pixies still have a way with a menacing lyric — "half asleep with a loaded gun, in a room with a lightbulb sun" from Silver Snail — and are adept at both wild-eyed rock (Blue Eyed Hexe) and power pop (Ring the Bell).

Dynamic Mexican guitar duo **Rodrigo y Gabriela's** new album **9 Dead Alive** (Rubyworks) features nine tracks highlighting their virtuosity and bristling with restless energy. Each of these acoustic guitar instrumentals has a dedication, including Russian novelist Dostoyevsky and medieval queen Eleanor of Aquitaine.

It's required listening for fans of fancy fretwork and those coming from a rock angle could particularly enjoy Fram with its relentless rolling power.

A nautical theme pervades **Haul Away!** (Play It Again) Manchester folk singer/songwriter **Liz Green's** atmospheric album of sea shanties and introspection with a wonky music hall influence. Admirers of Tom Waits and Toris Amos should seek this album out.

Hampered by one of the worst band names ever, London 60s outfit **Tinkerbell's Fairydust** (Grapefruit) disappeared after their eponymous album was pulled by Decca. However, it became sought after on the rare vinyl scene, selling for up to £1,000 on a certain online auction site.

The reissue reveals a decent if unremarkable sunshine harmony pop offering, exemplified by the likeable In My Magic Garden. There are also tracks from obscure spin-off bands and a cover of Jeff Lynne's Follow Me Follow.

Latest boy band sensation **The Vamps**, fronted by singer/guitarist Brad Simpson from Sutton Coldfield, have zoomed up the chart with their debut **Meet The Vamps** (Virgin EMI) and to their credit they have created their own buzz on YouTube rather than riding on the back of a TV talent show.

It is bright and breezy guitar pop in the McFly mode, already yielding hits Can We Dance, Wild Heart and Last Night, plus a version of Paul Simon's Cecilia. They will be in concert at Birmingham NIA on October 5.

Leon Burakowski

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Wolves boss Stan Cullis and his players admire the championship trophy they won in 1954



FA Cup triumph for West Bromwich Albion in 1954



Jim Sanders can't bear to watch as Ronnie Allen makes in 2-2 from the spot

It's 1954 and football kings of the Black Country reign supreme

SIXTY years ago, Black Country football stood at the very summit.

Last Thursday marked the anniversary of Albion's 1954 FA Cup triumph which brought to a climax what must be considered the finest season in the history of the region's football.

In these few square miles of hotly-contested turf between Molineux and The Hawthorns, come the evening of May 1, 1954, English football had to concede supremacy. Wolves, champions a week earlier, had deprived their neighbours of what would have been the 20th century's first double.

For compensation, runners-up Albion had to content themselves with a 3-2 FA Cup triumph over Preston North End, another major force at the time.

But the dual triumph made the pair the kings of the era while writing an epic chapter to a rivalry that thrives to this day. The surviving members of the thousands of Baggies fans who poured down to Wembley will be dwindling in numbers now but they

MEMORY LANE by Martin Swain

surely cling to the memory of this period. This would be the start of Wolves' greatest years with a team that swept forward powerfully and quickly and thrilled to the wing play of Mullen and Hancock.

Albion's rise with an older group of players which did not have the youthful back-up Stan Cullis had foreseen at Molineux, would be more short-lived. But the team of '54 is no less fabled. Coached by the under-regarded Vic Buckingham, they produced the kind of game with which Hungary had humiliated England the previous November.

"The Team of the Century" one commentator memorably labelled them and to this day they are still regarded as the club's finest. With Wolves winning their first Championship, there would be one further echo of this collision of rivals and stylists the following September when they contested

the Charity Shield. As was the custom, the game was staged at the home of the league champions and 45,000 fans gathered at Molineux to see the fireworks. And fireworks they got as Albion twice came back from two-goal deficits to draw the game 4-4.

Watching from the sidelines, a young member of the Wolves groundstaff had his imagination fired. Ron Atkinson says today: "There was no-one taking any prisoners. But they were two fantastic teams, it's as simple as that. We all just watched in wonder really."

Behind the outcome of this Wolves-Albion head-to-head 60 years ago, lie all manner of curiosities and even conspiracy theories. Back then, representative football took priority and having largely ignored the 66-goal partnership between Ronnie Allen and Johnnie Nicholls, the FA's selection panel suddenly picked both for a Scotland-England game at Hampden on the same day Albion would be facing Wolves.

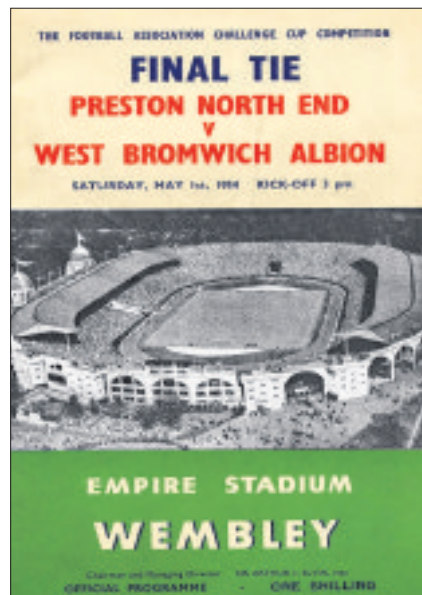
The gold and black would be without Billy Wright and Jimmy Mullen for the same

reason but absence of the two forwards was deemed a greater loss in most circles. Was there mischief to this? The Albion corner will always believe the influential Wright recommended the Allen-Nicholls call-ups to balance out his team's handicap. Wolves won the game 1-0 but the reverberations continued for many a year.

The outstanding 'playmaker' Ray Barlow had to play up front and having scored a couple against Wolves the previous season, legend has it Wolves defender Bill Shorthouse gave him a blunt warning: "You won't be scoring two today, mate."

Whether by accident or design, Barlow took a meaty challenge from Shorthouse and limped out to passenger status on the wing. When, years later, Allen took over as Wolves manager one of his first acts was to give youth coach Shorthouse his cards.

Separately, Albion and Wolves went toe-to-toe as fiercely as ever to dispute the biggest club trophies football had to offer back then. But together, on this night 60 years ago, they reigned supreme.



The programme for the 1954 FA Cup final

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**Ann's smile
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WILLENHALL'S Ann Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

A young-at-heart 75-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment,"

she recalls. Recently she was fitted with implant-retained dentures, inspired by a newspaper article on Steven Burchell's work at the Denture Clinic.

She says: "You don't realise how having bad teeth can affect you until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed. I could not have wished for better treatment. My care was first class and Steven has become like family to us."

Suction solution *is this the answer for you?*

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley, and other clinics across the region, says the invention has the potential to resolve all-too-common denture stability issues.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a frightening pace."

"In recent times we have seen, what I can describe only as strident steps forward, with implant-retained over-dentures, 'teeth-in-a-day' implant procedures and suction solution dentures, all coming into main-stream dentistry."

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"Implant dentistry as a resolve for stabilisation issues



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is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference, but the Ultra Suction prosthetics offer yet another possibility.

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qualities without the invasive clinical procedures required for implant work. We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another 'tool' in our commitment to ever-try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

"Lower dentures can often be troublesome as stability is compromised by shrinking gums and bone erosion - it's all part of the ageing process. Ill-fitting dentures create painful friction problems on gums and not least, be a source of compromised chewing and embarrassment."

Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste."

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What's On!

Panic break out at the Civic Hall

LAS Vegas rock band Panic! At The Disco follow up the top ten success of latest album Too Weird To Love, Too Rare To Die by bringing The Gospel Tour to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday.

Tickets cost £24.75 to see Brendon Urie and co in action at the Civic with a bundle of high-energy, synth-led anthems as the band tour in their own right after supporting Fall Out Boy.

Last year was the most successful yet for the MTV favourites who grabbed attention in 2005 with their debut album A Fever You Can't Sweat Out and the hit single I Write Sins Not Tragedies. Too Weird is their fourth album.

Call 0870 320 7000.

Theatre on song for Sister Act

TICKETS have gone on sale for the West Midlands amateur premiere of musical comedy Sister Act.

West Bromwich Operatic Society are staging the Midlands premiere of nun on the run musical Sister Act at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, from Tuesday to Saturday.

Based on the popular 1992 film starring Whoopi Goldberg, it tells of a nightclub singer who hides from gangsters in a convent, and decides to bring a little soul power to the nuns' choir.

Tasheka Coe stars and tickets cost from £13.50. Visit www.wbos.co.uk

Prince leads rock and pop royalty in week of star gigs

Oh Boy! Grand on Holly days

BUDDY - The Buddy Holly Story recreates the roots of rock 'n' roll at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday, May 19, to May 24, as the show celebrates its own silver anniversary.

The meteoric rise and untimely death of the Rave On and Peggy Sue rocker from Texas, who once rivalled Elvis and went on to influence The Beatles, is covered in the two-hour show featuring 20 hits with Roger Rowley as Buddy.

Ben Richards plays arrogant rock god Stacey Jaxx in Rock of Ages The Musical, also featuring Noel Sullivan, which features lots of 1980s power ballads from We Built This City to I Wanna Know What Love Is.

It struts into Birmingham to play The New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, May 19.



Roger Rowley as Buddy Holly in a musical of his life

ONE of the most influential rock/R&B acts of the past three decades Prince is back with his first Birmingham gigs of the 21st Century.

The Kiss and Purple Rain star left fans to scramble for tickets (£65 each) with a shock announcement of UK gigs just over a fortnight before he plays the LG Arena for the first time in 19 years, on May 15 and again on May 19.

Following a series of low-key 'guerilla' UK gigs in February, the unpredictable singer-songwriter from Minneapolis will be bringing his all-female band 3rdEyeGirl on tour after announcing the imminent arrival of his new album Plectrum Electrum.

That will form part of an exceptional week of concerts at the LG and NIA with Roar hit-maker Katy Perry at the LG on Tuesday and Wednesday with her Prismatic World Tour. It marks part of the Californian pop star's year-long global jaunt and in Birmingham she will be supported by Swedish synth pop duo Icona Pop.

Then on Friday, May 16, Bangerz babe Miley Cyrus, who has put a Wrecking Ball through memories of Hannah Montana with her twerking antics, is at the NIA. That's the same night that The X Factor 2011 winners Little Mix are at the LG following the release of second album Salute and their Sports Relief Cameo cover hit Word Up!

Young queen of quirk Janelle Monae is supported by Cody Chestnutt at Birmingham Institute tonight. Yorkshire rock band Embrace have made a triumphant comeback with Follow You Home and are in concert on Saturday at Birmingham Academy.

There are opportunities to catch up with several performers that made their names in the 1980s and 90s. Tonight crooner Michael Bolton, now minus his mullet, but still able to deliver a powerful ballad, is in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall with a combination of old favourites and songs from his new Motown tribute album Ain't No Mountain High Enough.

Influential Liverpool band Echo & The Bunnymen follow up new single Lovers On The Run and forthcoming album Meteorites



Prince returns to Birmingham after 19 years

at the Wulfrun Hall on Sunday. Hits such as The Cutter, Lips Like Sugar and The Killing Moon will likely get an airing.

Singer-songwriter Toris Amos is at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday showcasing new album Unrepentant Geraldines. Ex-lead singer of The Go-Gos Belinda Carlisle, who had solo hits in 1987 with Circle In The Sand and Heaven Is A Place On Earth, has a sold out gig on Tuesday at Birmingham Town Hall. That's the same night folk/pop outfit Martin Stephenson and The Daintees are at the Academy 3. Ex-Bible frontman Boo Hewerdine plays Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Wednesday.

Lord of the Flies in dance revamp

A HARD-HITTING dance production devised by one of the scene's great talents and featuring several Black Country boys will be a highlight of International Dance Festival Birmingham 2014.

Matthew Bourne's company New Adventures bring Lord of the Flies, based on the novel by William Golding, to Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday to Saturday, May 14-17.

The professional dancers will be joined by 22 young amateurs chosen from more than 300 hopefuls.

The powerful story about schoolboys descending into savagery has been relocated by Bourne from an island to a deserted theatre setting.

Wolf Alice ready to rock the Temple

THERE'S a buzz about London rockers Wolf Alice, fronted by Ellie Rowsell, and that's not just the ringing left in your ears by their explosive grunge style sound.

The band named after an Angela Carter short story emptied the bars at the recent Wolverhampton gig by The Manic Street Preachers when they pulled a massive crowd for a support act.

They are touring again before the release of EP Creature Songs in June and play Birmingham Institute's Temple venue in Digbeth on Monday. Call 0844 844 0444 for tickets.

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CHOICE



Molly

Eurovision Song Contest 2014 (BBC1, 8pm)
Graham Norton commentates on the 59th musical extravaganza from Copenhagen, Denmark, who won last year with Emmelie de Forest's Only Teardrops. All eyes will be on Molly, who is aiming to become the first UK winner since 1997 with her self-penned anthem Children of the Universe, and Ireland's Can-Linn featuring Kasey Smith – assuming the latter made it through Thursday's semi-final. They are likely to face stiff competition from the other 24 countries, including the host nation's Basim with his Bruno Mars-style Cliche Love Song, the German trio Elaiza, who use traditional instruments to produce a more modern sound, and France's Twin Twin, who bring to mind Jedward with their fun dance track Moustache.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.10** BBC News; Weather. **12.20** Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying. Coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.30** Monkey Planet. (R) **4.30** Film: Bolt. (2008) Animated adventure, with the voice of John Travolta. **6.00 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather. **6.20 Pointless Celebrities.** Eurovision edition, featuring former Bucks Fizz stars Cheryl Baker and Mike Nolan, Johnny Logan and Dana – who both won the title for Ireland – and Sonia. **7.10 The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. **8.00 Eurovision Song Contest 2014.** Graham Norton commentates on the 59th musical extravaganza from Copenhagen, Denmark, who won last year with Emmelie de Forest's Only Teardrops. All eyes will be on Molly, who is aiming to become the first UK winner since 1997 with her self-penned anthem Children of the Universe, and Ireland's Can-Linn featuring Kasey Smith – assuming the latter made it through Thursday's semi-final. They are likely to face stiff competition from the other 24 countries, including the host nation's Basim with his Bruno Mars-style Cliche Love Song, the German trio Elaiza, who use traditional instruments to produce a more modern sound, and France's Twin Twin, who bring to mind Jedward with their fun dance track Moustache. Fans of The X Factor will recognise the Spanish act Ruth Lorenzo, who came fifth in the 2008 contest, Axel Hirsoux may well become Belgium's answer to Paul Potts with his ballad Mother, and Austria's entry is a man posing as a bearded lady. It really does take all sorts. Red button viewers will be able to access lyrics to all songs and send comments. **11.25 BBC News;** Weather; National Lottery Update. **11.45 Agnetha: Abba & After.** The story of Agnetha Fältskog's music career as both a member of the Swedish pop group and a successful solo singer, featuring interviews with Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson. (R) **12.45 Film:** Once. (2006) **2.05** Weatherview. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: The Dark Mirror. (1946) **7.25** Great British Menu. (R) **7.55** Great British Menu. (R) **8.25** Great British Menu. (R) **8.55** Great British Menu. (R) **9.25** Great British Menu. (R) **9.55** Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix-Practice Three. **11.05** Coast. (R) **11.30** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.15** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.45** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. **1.50** Deborah Kerr: Talking Pictures. **2.25** Film: From Here to Eternity. (1953) **4.20** Film: The Prisoner of Zenda. (1952) **6.00 Natural World: The Pygmy Hippo – A Very Secret Life.** Australian ecologist Wei-Yeen Yap travels to a remote part of the West African rainforest to investigate the life and habits of the endangered species. (R) **7.00 Flog It!** Will Axon and Michael Baggot are at Coventry Cathedral, where the experts value items brought in by members of the public. Presented by Paul Martin. **8.00 Dad's Army.** Jones's reputation is called into question by an old comrade's allegations about his conduct at the Battle of Omdurman in Sudan. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R) **8.30 Pop Go the Women: The Other Story of Pop Art – A Culture Show Special.** Alastair Sooke tracks down women involved in the pop art movement of the 1950s and 60s, including Pauline Boty, Marisol, Rosalyn Drexler, Idelle Weber and Jann Haworth. **9.30 Generation War: Our Mothers, Our Fathers.** Wilhelm is sent to serve in a punitive battalion, Charlotte's hospital is overrun by the Red Army, and Dom asks Greta to testify that he helped Viktor escape. Last in the series. Generation War: Fact and Fiction follows. **11.05 Generation War: Fact and Fiction.** Martha Kearney chairs a discussion of issues raised by the Second World War German drama, looking at its historical accuracy and the controversy it has caused. **11.45 Film: Telstar: The Joe Meek Story.** (2008) Biopic charting the career of the influential 1960s record producer, who was ultimately brought down by depression and paranoia. With Con O'Neill and Pam Ferris. (R) **1.40** Film: BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.25** Film: Beethoven's 2nd. (1993) **2.05** Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **3.05** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.05** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.35** The Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** 35 ITV News; Weather. **6.00 Let Me Entertain You.** Viewers' clips, featuring a hip-synching showdown between cheerleaders and farmers on Icona Pop's I Love Punk and One Direction. **6.30 New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill puts his own spin on viewers' clips, featuring a hunt for mosquitos, the 60 Minute Makeover team demolishing a house and a superhero child wrecking his mother's kitchen. **7.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec present the fifth audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – give their verdicts on more of the nation's best, and worst, performers. Queuing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they're worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at the Royal Variety Performance. **8.00 Amazing Greys.** Young contestants take on accomplished pensioners, including former England striker Geoff Hurst and Mastermind winner Liz Horrocks. **9.00 Prey.** The hunt gains momentum when Reinhardt receives a tip-off about Farrow's location, while the fugitive suspects someone close to home may have information about Abi and Max's deaths. (R) **10.00 The Americans.** Philip and Elizabeth infiltrate a rebel training base and attend the church to which Paige has donated all her savings. **10.50** ITV News; Weather. **11.05** Film: The Eiger Sanction. (1975) An assassin-turned-academic is blackmailed into returning to his old career to eliminate a spy. Action adventure, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. **1.25** Jackpot247. **3.30** Dinner Date: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.35** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Lingfield Park and Haydock Park. **4.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. Recruitment boss Duncan Powell hosts the final dinner party in Newport, Gwent, and hopes his Hawaiian-themed evening will impress his guests enough to win the prize. Unfortunately for him, prawn brains and sea bass bones harm his chances of success, so the confident cook tries to rescue the evening with a lemon posset. (R) **6.40 Channel 4 News.** **7.05** Film: The Day the Earth Stood Still. (2008) An alien arrives on Earth, accompanied by an awe-inspiring powerful robot, on a fateful mission – to decide if the human race deserves to continue – and if not, to wipe it out. The visitor is imprisoned in a military facility, but a scientist helps him escape, hoping to prove that mankind is worth saving. Sci-fi drama remake, starring Keanu Reeves and Jennifer Connelly. **9.00 Film: Man on a Ledge.** (2012) Premiere. An escaped convict climbs onto the outside of a skyscraper and threatens to jump. The police psychologist sent to talk him down begins to suspect there is an agenda behind this suspicious-seeming suicide bid, while the prisoner's brother takes advantage of the ensuing chaos to carry out a plan of his own. Thriller, with Sam Worthington, Jamie Bell, Elizabeth Banks and Ed Harris. **11.00** Film: Beverly Hills Cop. (1984) A Detroit cop goes to Los Angeles to track down the killers of his friend, who are working for an untouchable drug kingpin. Comedy thriller, with Eddie Murphy and Judge Reinhold. **1.00** The Big Dirty List Show: 50 Years of Sex and Music. The most seductive songs from the past 50 years. (R) **2.30** Holyoaks. Ormiston. (R) **4.30** SuperScrimers' Challenge. (R) **5.25** The Hoobs. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00** Meerkat Manor. (R) **11.25** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Bloody Tales of the Tower. (R) **1.55** Film: Submarine X-1. (1967) Second World War adventure, starring James Cagney. **3.40** Film: Torpedo Run. (1958) Second World War adventure, starring Glenn Ford. **5.35** 5 News Weekend. **5.40** Film: Attack on the Iron Coast. (1968) Second World War drama, starring Lloyd Bridges. **7.25** Film: Battle of Britain. (1969) In 1940, the Luftwaffe launches a campaign of aerial attacks against Britain to gain control of the skies ahead of a planned land invasion. Under the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding, the RAF mounts a determined defence over the summer and autumn, despite being heavily outnumbered and forced to match inexperienced pilots against German veterans. Second World War drama, starring Laurence Olivier, Michael Caine, Robert Shaw, Christopher Plummer, Harry Andrews, Trevor Howard and Curt Jurgens. Edited for violence and language. **10.00** Live International Boxing. Kid Galahad v Fred Mundrab. Coverage of the bout for the vacant Commonwealth Super Bantamweight title, which comes from Ponds Forge in Sheffield. **12.00** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Dr Ferdinand has to break the news of a woman's dementia to her children, while Dr Trinh fears a patient is hurting herself at risk of a stroke by not taking blood pressure tablets. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. Josh prepares for an important meeting with the venue owner. Suraj's new break-time rule is ignored by his colleagues. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. Double bill. Ralph hops the limelight at the Funky Festival by preventing the other acts from turning up. Chipolata awaits the delivery of her birthday presents. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. Wendy is scared of Fatima's mum because of her clothes. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. Angel Rafe uses musical instruments to show the children how to get along, in a bid to stop them from picking on each other for being different. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. Double bill. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Top Gear **8.00** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) **10.15** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** American Dad! **2.00** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.30** Some Girls **4.00** Close **BBC Four** **7.00** Britain's Natural World – A Highland Haven **8.00** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** Alan Bennett at 80: Bennett Meets Hyman **10.00** Talking Heads **11.30** The Many Faces of Les Dawson **12.30** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.10** Sounds of the 70s **1.40** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **2.40** Britain's Natural World – A Highland Haven **3.40** Close **ITV2** **11.00** Tom Daley Goes Global **12.05** Britain's Got Talent **1.25** Britain's Got More Talent **2.35** You've Been Framed! **3.40** Totally You've Been Framed! **4.40** You've Been Framed! **5.10** Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones (2002) **8.00** Britain's Got More Talent **9.00** You've Been Framed! Top 100 Talent **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Viral Tap **11.35** Britain's Got Talent **12.40** Britain's Got More Talent **1.40** Dads **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **12.35** A Touch of Frost **2.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.45** Foyle's War **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Touched by Frost: Goodbye Jack **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.30** Inspector Morse **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Delhi Daredevils v Sunrisers Hyderabad **8.00** Mumbai Indians v Chennai Super Kings **8.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **9.00** Cycling: Women's Tour of Britain **10.00** Film: Game of Death (2010) **12.10** Film: Backdraft (1991) **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.00** The Mindy Project **11.30** Rules of Engagement **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Youngers **5.35** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: The Dilemma (2011) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory **12.15** The Inbetweeners **1.20** Rude Tube **2012** **2.25** Broke Girls **3.15** How I Met Your Mother **3.55** Made in Chelsea **4.50** Ugly Betty **Film4** **11.00** An Elephant Called Slowly (1970) **1.00** Lemmy Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **3.05** James and the Giant Peach (1996) **4.35** Earthquake (1974) **6.55** St Trinian's **9.20** The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **9.00** Premonition (2007) **10.55** Wanted (2008) **1.00** Re-Animator (1985) **3.00** Close



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BBC1



10.00 Breakfast, 9.00 The Andrew Marr show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix. Coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya, Barcelona. (Start time: 1.00pm). **3.15** Final Score. **5.30** Points of View. **5.45** Songs of Praise.

6.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryside. A visit to Lee Valley, which has provided a rural getaway for city dwellers in London, Essex and Hampshire for more than four decades. Ellie Hulsewood searches the area for wildlife and finds out what is being done to clean up its chalk streams, and Matt Baker meets the Sicilian siblings who have turned salad-growing into a thriving family business. Ellie also joins RNLI volunteers as they carry out essential flood-training exercises at the Olympic Water Park. On the farm, Adam Henson is searching for a new Gloucester bull to improve his herd, and Tom Heap searches for proof of the climate change affecting the British countryside. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts pay a second visit to Exeter Cathedral, where more hopeful members of the public bring along treasured antiques and curios. The tales behind the stories and find out their worth. Items include Chinese objects that reveal a family secret, artworks by the sculptor Elisabeth Frink, a doll that turns out to be one of the earliest ever created. Also the show, and the story of the Battle of Waterloo drawn by an eyewitness.

9.00 The Crimson Field. Joan is interrogated by Col Pourbriant after being charged with aiding the enemy and Kitty feels guilty that she did nothing to stop her colleague. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the final Premier League matches of the season.

11.55 The Millionaire Preacher: Reggie Yates' Extreme South Africa. The presenter examines the boom in Pentecostal "mega-churches" across the country by spending a week with millionaire Prophet Mboro.

12.55 Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** *Carnivals*. (R) **7.00** *Carnivals*. (R) **7.05** *Sooty*. (R) **7.20** *Digimon Fusion*. (R) **7.45** *Horrid Henry*. (R) **8.00** *Big Time Rush*. (R) **8.50** *Big Time Rush*. (R) **9.25** *May the Best House Win*. (R) **10.25** *Film Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey*. (R) **10.39** *12.20* *ITV News: Weather*. **12.30** *Big Star's Little Star*. (R) **1.35** *All Star Family Fortunes*. (R) **2.20** *Britain's Got Talent*. (R) **3.20** *Let Me Entertain You*. (R) **3.50** *You've Been Framed!*. (R) **4.20** *Movers*. (R)

6.20 *Regional Programme*; *Weather*. **6.30** *ITV News: Weather*. **6.45** *Catchphrase*. *Stephen Mulhern* hosts a game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 *Off Their Rockers*. *Sev* learns the provocative dance move of twerking, Rosie gets to reveal her usual sexual warnings and Sonia's sat-nav has a mind of its own.

8.00 *Vera*. The body of a man killed by a single gunshot wound is discovered on the moors and a burnt-out truck containing the remains of a deer is found a mile away. *Joe* is convinced the case is a cold war gone wrong, but for *Vera*, the truth is never that straightforward. Delving into the victim's story, she unearths a sad childhood in the country and a troubled life in the city, scraping by as a novelist. Following the recent death of her mother, she returned to Northumberland after a 15-year absence to sell his inheritance to a wealthy couple – but pulled out of the deal at the last minute. Could his death be linked to a dispute over land? *Brenda Blethyn* and *David Leon* lead the murder mystery.

10.00 *Perspectives – Under My Skin: Emeli Sande in Search of Frida Kahlo*. The singer visits Mexico City to find out how her heroine overcome illness and a serious traffic accident to establish herself as one of the world's best-known female artists.

11.00 *ITV News: Weather*. **11.15** *Premiership Rugby Union*. **12.10** *The Store*. **2.40** *Motorsport UK*. **3.30** *30* *Nightmares*. **4.10** *The Jeremy Kyle Show*. *Jeremy Kyle* and *Ben Bremner*'s Great British Views. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifty and the Flowerets. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloë's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Top. (R) **7.10** The Big Book of Everything. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventure. (R) **8.40** Super Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **9.40** Access. **10.05** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **10.40** Beware! Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.40** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.40** Film: Mrs Calver's Cabbage War. (2010) (R) **7.00** The Secret Garden. (1993) **2.50** Film: The Canterville Ghost. (1996) **Supernatural** comedy, starring Patrick Stewart. **4.40** Film: Pocahontas. (1995) **6.15** **5 News Weekend.**

6.15 Film: **Act Ventrue: When Nature Calls.** (1995) The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of exile in a Buddhist monastery to search for a missing seal, but in the African jungle.

Comedy sequel, with Jim Carrey and Simon Callow. Edited for language and sexual content.

8.00 Film: **The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen.** (2003) Characters from the world of Victorian literature join forces to stop a villain from starting a world war. Comic-book fantasy adventure, starring Sean Connery and Shane West. Edited for violence.

10.00 Film: **The Bucket List.** (2007) Two terminally ill men plan to enjoy the time they have left by doing the things they have always wanted to do. Comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman.

11.50 **The Woman with 40 Cats – and Other Pet Hoarders.** Documentary giving an insight into the lives of people whose love of animals has become an obsession, including a veterinary surgeon who shares her home with 40 cats. (R)

12.50 True Crimes: **The First 72 Hours.** (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** 7/7 Computer Crime: Minute by Minute. (R) **4.40** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.05** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix – Highlights **7.40** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) **10.00** In the Flesh **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.10** Jonah from Tonga **12.40** 2007 Brit Awards **12.55** The Centre **1.40** Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth **3.00** In the Flesh **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Film: The Wooden Horse (1950) **8.45** Wild Scotland **9.00** An Englishman Abroad **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Dinner at Noon **11.15** Markata Revealed **12.30** The Wonder of Bees with Thomas Kearney **12.30** When Rock Goes Acoustic **1.30** Acoustic at the BBC **2.00** The Rolling Stones at the BBC **3.15** Sounds of the 70s **3.45** Close

ITV2
12.20 You've Been Framed! **12.55** Film: The Iron Giant (1999) **2.40** Film: The Zookeeper (2011) **4.40** Britain's Got Talent **5.45** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45** You've Been Framed! **7.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) **9.00** The Viral Tap **10.50** Film: License to Wed (2007) **12.40** Viral Tap **1.20** You've Been Framed and Famous! **2.15** The Vampire Diaries **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
10.50 Bertie and Elizabeth **2.55** Rosemary & Thyme **3.55** Film: Black Beauty (1994) **5.45** Inspector Morse **7.00** The Zoo **9.00** Birds of Feather **8.30** Vicious **10.05** Film: Seabiscuit (2003) **12.55** William and Mary **1.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kings XI Punjab vs Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore v Rajasthan Royals. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Cycling: Women's Tour of Britain **10.00** Film: Tin Cup (1996) **12.45** Warren United **1.15** Back on the Job: Chris O'Connell **2.15** Motorway Patrol **3.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4
3.30 Youngers **1.00** Home and Chelsea **2.05** Revenge **3.30** How I Met Your Mother **4.40** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Top **8.00** Film: The Dark Knight Returns II (1988) **10.15** The Inbetweeners **11.25** The Big Bang Theory **12.20** Rude Tube **2012** **1.20** Top **2.20** Rules of Engagement **3.10** 2 Broke Girls **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Black Tent (1956) **1.00** Crocodile Dundee (1986) **2.50** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **4.35** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **6.55** 27 Dresses (2008) **9.00** The Intern (2011) **11.25** Mona Lisa (1966) **1.30** We Went to War (2012) **3.15** Close

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Film Choices

MONDAY

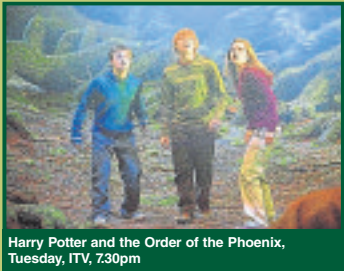
Trial by Fire, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A firefighter is wrongly blamed for the death of her father, hours before he was due to retire from the department. Eager to prove herself to her peers, she sets out to join an elite squad of smoke jumpers who are expected to leap from planes into the heart of a blaze. Action thriller, starring Brooke Burns, Erin Karpluk, Rick Ravanello and Robert Moloney. (2008)

TUESDAY

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, ITV, 7.30pm

The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow sorcerers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, Michael Gambon and Alan Rickman. (2007)



Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Tuesday, ITV, 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Tomorrow Never Dies, ITV, 10.35pm

James Bond joins forces with a Chinese agent to foil a media mogul's scheme to start a war between their countries. Using an undetectable stealth ship, the press baron plans an attack on both nations' navies, knowing they will blame each other – giving him exclusive global media coverage of the resulting conflict. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (1997)

THURSDAY

James Doe: The Wrong Face, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The former government agent is called back into action after kidnappers abduct a district attorney's wife during plastic surgery – meaning nobody knows what the victim now looks like. The criminals demand the release of the defendant in a money-laundering trial, but the accused denies all knowledge of the crime. Thriller, starring Lea Thompson and Jessy Schram. (2005)

FRIDAY

The World Is Not Enough, ITV, 10.35pm

James Bond is assigned to protect the heiress of an oil dynasty after her father is killed in a bombing at MI6 headquarters. The attack is the work of an infamous terrorist who is unable to feel pain after surviving a gunshot to his head, and who now intends to destroy the world's supply of oil. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan, Robert Carlyle, Sophie Marceau and Robbie Coltrane. (1999)

Pick of the Week

Make a note to tune in to tonight's contest

Bue, Engelbert Humperdinck, Bonnie Tyler – over the last few years, the UK has sent some pretty big names to Eurovision. And let's be honest, the results have been underwhelming.

So, this year it seems the powers-that-be have taken a different approach, and picked a rising star instead, in the form of Molly and her song Children of the Universe.

Not that the singer, whose full name is Molly Smitten-Downes, is a total novice when it comes to performing in musical competitions. In 2012, she picked up the Best Urban/Pop Act prize at Live and Unsigned, and in 2013 won Best Song at the Best of British Unsigned Music Awards.

However, she admits Eurovision is in a slightly different league.

She says: "Oh, hands down it is the biggest audience I'll ever have performed in front of – I don't think it really gets much bigger as a platform, performing to so many people across a whole continent."

"That's the biggest I've ever performed to would probably be a

festival size – about 25,000 people – so with regard to the arena, I've done bigger, but with regard to the 180 million watching at home... it's almost impossible to get my head round that!

But she's trying not to let it faze her. "I suppose there is a positive sort of pressure as the first of a new kind of artist being chosen to represent the UK. This contest can be such a great platform for a new artist, it would be great if it came to be seen as a positive opportunity in the future. There is pressure, but nothing that isn't healthy."

In fact, she's hoping that she can even change the way a few people think about the contest.

"There is a stigma around Eurovision, it would be foolish not to realise that, but there are great acts that come through the contest – like [2012 Swedish winner] Loreen – and at heart it's a songwriters' competition, so you're always going to get some genuinely great music in the mix."

"That's what I'm doing it for – I'd like to have a career as a songwriter

and where else am I going to get an opportunity for 180 million people to hear my work? How do you top that?"

In fact, she's so excited about the competition, it seems she's not even listening to the cynics who claim that it doesn't matter who the UK send because no one will vote for us anyway.

"This is all new to me, but I'd like to think that if the competition is based on the song, and if the people of Europe think my song is the best, then yes – I definitely think we can do well."

But as she takes the stage in Copenhagen, Denmark, the competition is going to be tough, especially when she's up against the host nation's Basim, German trio Elaiza, France's Twin Twin, and Spain's Ruth Lorenzo, who British viewers may recognise from The X Factor.

Although the most eye-catching entrant may be Austria's bearded drag artist Conchita Wurst, who should definitely give commentator Graham Norton something to talk about...



Molly is performing in Eurovision Song Contest 2014, Saturday, BBC1, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Greatest Ever War Movies Channel 5, 9pm

Back in May 2005, Channel 4 broadcast a two-part rundown of the 100 best war films ever made, as voted for by viewers. In the nine years since then, a few more movies have been made in the genre that could be added to it, but it's hard to imagine that this list will be much different. Those in the know at Channel 5 are keeping quiet about which films come where in the chart, but if the likes of The Dam Busters, Apocalypse Now, The Great Escape and Saving Private Ryan don't crop up, we'll eat our berets. And if the likes of Where Eagles Dare and The Bridge on the River Kwai are missing, Channel 5 will have a battle with many an armchair critic on their hands.

Copacabana Palace BBC2, 9pm

When you read the title of this programme, don't tell us that the lyrics of Barry Manilow's famous song didn't run through your head, because we won't believe you. But did you know that the tune was inspired by a conversation Manilow had with writer Bruce Sussman during a stay at the Copacabana Hotel in Rio de Janeiro? It opened in August 1923 and in the years since has featured in the 1933 film Flying Down to Rio, and has also provided luxurious rooms for such famous names as Madonna, Michael Jackson, Marilyn Monroe, Orson Welles, Diana, Princess of Wales, Elton John, Pavarotti and Justin Bieber. This documentary charts three months in the hotel's life, following its staff and guests. David Morrissey narrates.

TUESDAY

Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic Channel 5, 8pm

Adventurer Ben Fogle must have learned how to deal with his itchy feet by now after years of globetrotting, but there's one thing sure to keep Ben in one place for a longer stint of time – his love of animals. So for this new series, he's setting up camp at the University of Liverpool's Leahurst campus, which is home to one of the UK's top veterinary colleges. In this first episode, staff treat a horse called Polo who is at serious risk of dying from colic, and in the small animal clinic, Paolo Silvestrini treats a rescue kitten that can't stop sneezing.

WEDNESDAY

Watchdog BBC1, 8pm

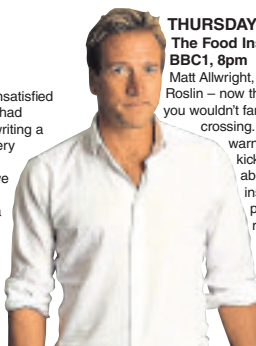
Once upon a time, people who were unsatisfied with the level of customer service they had received usually had to make do with writing a strongly worded letter. Now, they can very publicly vent their frustration all over social media and review sites. So, do we still need Watchdog? Well, it seems we do, as the consumer show is back for a new series. Not only can Anne Robinson, Matt Allwright and Chris Hollins fight our corner, but they can also expose rogue traders and warn us who to look out for. In the first episode, they turn their attention to a major car manufacturer that has been accused of being dishonest about safety testing.

Billy Connolly's Big Send Off ITV, 9pm

The comedian concludes his journey exploring attitudes toward death and dying. In his native Glasgow, he visits the Necropolis Cemetery, a Victorian burial ground full of striking gravestones and grand monuments to the dead. He then travels to the Anatomy Laboratory in the University of California as he explores what happens when bodies are donated to medical science. Finally, Billy gains a personal insight into death from a dying man who has embraced his fate and forgiven himself for his former sins.

THURSDAY The Food Inspectors BBC1, 8pm

Matt Allwright, Chris Hollins and Gaby Roslin – now there's a tough-talking trio you wouldn't fancy your chances crossing. So food outlets be warned – as this new series kicks off, they're out and about with the food inspectors to protect the public from unhygienic restaurants and potentially harmful food. In this first instalment, Matt investigates how clean supermarkets really are by sending an undercover team to 10 London stores to test for levels of



Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic, Tuesday, Channel 5, 8pm

bacteria. Meanwhile, Gaby and Chris discover what's in ice-cream as they investigate the difference between soft scoop and dairy, and learn how to make both before offering them to schoolchildren for a taste test.

FRIDAY

Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis ITV, 8pm

It's the last in the series, and the Davis family are finishing off their tour in Lancashire, beginning with a trip to the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Regular viewers of Coronation Street and Strictly Come Dancing will know that this is a place where dreams are made, but Warwick's son Harrison initially seems unsure as his family try to coax him onto the dance floor. Their next destination is the seaside resort's famous illuminations, and Warwick has the honour of switching on the lights – but he's glad he's not taking responsibility for the electricity bill. .

MasterChef: The Finals

BBC1, 8.30pm

Eight weeks ago, the distinctive husky tones of India Fisher marked the start of another series of MasterChef. Since then, 57 of the original 60 amateur cooks have fallen by the wayside, leaving tonight's trio battling it out to succeed last year's victor Natalie Coleman as champion. All that stands between them and the title are three courses of perfect grub, so they'll be pulling out all the stops to impress judges John Torode and Gregg Wallace with spicy starters, mouth-watering mains and delicious desserts

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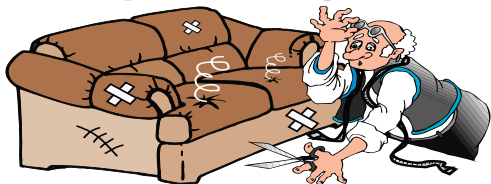
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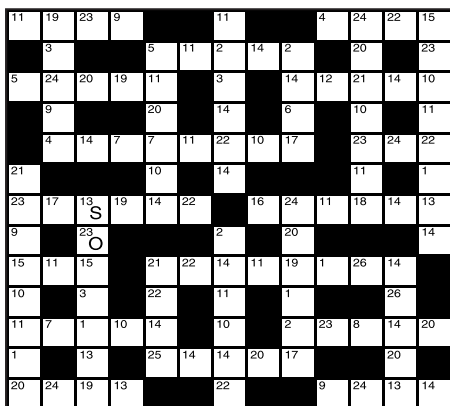
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	M	D	F	A	H	Y	R	L	K	P	Q	E													
U	C	I	G	B	X	T	Z	S	W	J	N	V													

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

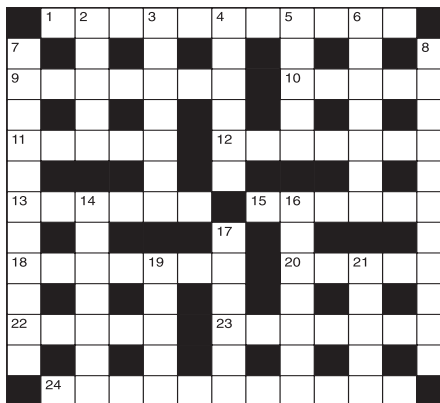
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Didn't succeed in crossing the ice? (4,7)
9. Lets hit out at a symbol of Scotland (7)
10. Engagement ring from one who will care, naturally! (5)
11. Such zest is nothing more than wind! (5)
12. His choice will get cross (7)
13. Feel in form, like a cat (6)
15. Five have a good look round, but go hungry (6)
18. Supervise the making of some plain spectacles (7)
20. Pole on the run (5)
22. I get shot about in the lift (5)
23. It has wings and flies (7)
24. You can get away with it! (6,5)

Down

2. Gives out the wrong times (5)
3. Drop in disappointment (3-4)
4. Carried out shoe repairs as listed (6)
5. Give people your address? (5)
6. Bigger and better (7)
7. Dramatic attack of nerves (5,6)
8. It's fine when we get it! (4,7)
14. A fool tells fibs about girls (7)
16. One of the main dangers of war (7)
17. Representation of astute formation (6)
19. More for the bit player (5)
21. Just the group to play an eightsome reel? (5)



Quick Clues:

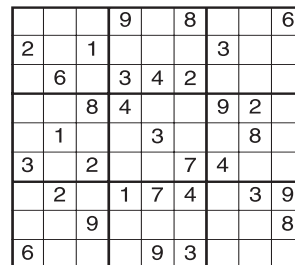
Across

1. Surroundings (11)
9. Distinguished (7)
10. Rascal (5)
11. Bring to bear (5)
12. Coagulate (7)
13. Interment (6)
15. Reviewer (6)
18. Increase (7)
20. Tailsman (5)
22. Punctuation mark (5)
23. England, Scotland and Wales (7)
24. Previous history (11)

Down

2. Sound (5)
3. Sloth (7)
4. Light science (6)
5. Imbecile (5)
6. Disregard (7)
7. Similarity (11)
8. Substitute (11)
14. Diet (7)
16. Accept (7)
17. Firm (6)
19. Dodge (5)
21. Fit (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	4	5	9	1	2	3	6	7
1	9	6	8	3	7	4	5	2
3	2	7	4	6	5	8	1	9
7	6	8	1	2	9	5	4	3
5	3	2	6	4	8	9	7	1
4	1	9	5	7	3	6	2	8
9	7	1	3	5	4	2	8	6
2	8	4	7	9	6	1	3	5
6	5	3	2	8	1	7	9	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fairness; 5 Diva; 9 Lamp; 10 Calendar; 11 Lyric; 12 Lariats; 13 Statisticians; 18 Stamp out; 19 Here; 20 Erosion; 21 Orbit; 22 Toys; 23 Prestige. Down: 2 Analyst; 3 Reprint; 4 Scarlet-runner; 6 Indiana; 7 Arrests; 8 Metric; 13 Suspect; 14 Anatomy; 15 Impair; 16 Inherit; 17 Nursing. QUICK - Across: 1 Athletic; 5 Ows; 9 Brag; 10 Adhesive; 11 Hasty; 12 Sleeper; 13 Sooner or later; 18 Restrain; 19 Vice; 20 Chianti; 21 Droop; 22 Night; 23 Answered. Down: 2 Tornado; 3 Lighten; 4 Indisposition; 6 Whippet; 7 Shearer; 8 Reveal; 13 Saracen; 14 Ousting; 15 Errand; 16 Adverse; 17 Enclose.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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Executive property in a Shropshire village



MILLBROOK House at Neen Sollars, Cleobury Mortimer, has well-planned accommodation in a village location.

Having delightful view it is for sale through Allan Morris & Company at £435,000. It has reception hall, spacious dining room, living room with brick-built inglenook fireplace incorporating a wood burning stove. The breakfast kitchen includes an oil-fired stove. There is a utility room and L-shaped garage. The master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe plus bathroom and there are three further double bedrooms and bathroom. Contact Allan Morris & Company 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



Attractive features at impressive 1930s home



AN IMPRESSIVE 1930s residence in St Kenelms Avenue, Halesowen, boasts attractive features and four bedrooms at the head of a cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £399,950. The spacious accommodation includes a hallway with a wood turned staircase, lounge with a bay window, wooden flooring and an original fireplace, a separate dining room with a feature fireplace and wooden flooring, a very good sized re-fitted kitchen with a double stove oven, Belfast sink and door to cellarette, utility room with a cloakroom off. There are four bedrooms, re-fitted feature bathroom with separate shower, wash basin, low flush WC, roll top Victorian free standing bath, heated towel rail and under-floor heating and tiling. Outside there is a detached double garage.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 558 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



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WORDSLEY



GEORGE STREET

FOR SALE £229,950*

Impressive, Large Detached Period Property, close to local amenities, comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Newly Fitted Kitchen, Cellar, Utility, Shower Room, Four Bedrooms, Private Rear Garden with access to carport, Gas Central Heating

DUDLEY



RICHBOROUGH DRIVE

FOR SALE £154,950*

Semi detached to comprise of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms (Master with En Suite), Bathroom. Benefits of the property include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Integral Garage and NO UPWARD CHAIN

GORNAL



WOOD ROAD

FOR SALE £149,950*

Three bedroom detached property to comprise of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and a Bathroom. Benefits of the property include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage and NO UPWARD CHAIN

WORDSLEY



KINVER STREET

FOR SALE £74,950*

LEASEHOLD Ground Floor Flat with NO UPWARD CHAIN, Comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Benefits include: Sealed Unit Double Glazing, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking

TIPTON



WOOD STREET

£565 pcm*

BUNGALOW, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Garden, Off Road Parking, Single Garage

KINGSWINFORD

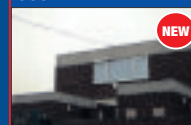


WHITEHALL ROAD

£650 pcm*

Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

COSELEY



ROSEVILLE PRECINCT

£325 pcm*

Purpose built flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking

NETHERTON



WORCESTER ROAD

£575 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs Shower Room, Downstairs Toilet, Three Bedrooms, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD



SOUTHWAY COURT

£675 pcm*

Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

WOLLASTON



MAMBLE ROAD

£495 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Separate Toilet, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking to Rear

AMBLECOTE



RIVERSLEIGH DRIVE

£595 pcm*

Modern Mid Terrace House, Large Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Parking for 2 Cars, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

WORDSLEY



BRAMBLESIDE

£595 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

UPPER GORNAL



KENT STREET

£350 pcm*

Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

WORDSLEY



MARLBOROUGH GARDENS

£595 pcm*

Mid Terrace House, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, Conservatory, Downstairs Toilet, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Front & Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

WOLLASTON



RICHARDSON DRIVE

£575 pcm*

Modern Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Parking for 2 cars, Unfurnished

GREAT BRIDGE



EAGLE PLACE

£370 pcm*

Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Economy Seven Heating, Private Parking, Security Entrance Door

Quarry Bank



High Street

£495 pcm*

End Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

PENSNETT



HIGH STREET

£325 pcm*

SHOP PREMISES, Includes Kitchen and WC.

NETHERTON



PARK ROAD

£395 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL



BISELL WAY

£395 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

COLLEY GATE



WINDMILL HILL

£395 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

LANESFIELD



FARRINGTON ROAD

£650 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD



MARLEY ROAD

£675 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs Toilet, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Corner Plot/Gardens, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

COSELEY



ANDERSLEIGH DRIVE

£410 pcm*

First Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

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BEST WESTERN Stone Manor Hotel
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327 Hurcott Road, Kidderminster



A wonderful property having been improved immeasurably and extended to create a fabulous detached character family home. Vacant possession. No onward chain. Internal Inspection recommended.

- Detached and Extended
- 4 Bedrooms with En-Suite
- Modern Family Bathroom
- Living & Dining Rooms
- Living Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room & Cloakroom
- Ground Floor Office
- In - Out Driveway
- Large Garage & Useful Cellar
- Enclosed Private Gardens
- EPC = D

OFFERS INVITED £285,000



Woodseaves Cottage, Arley, Bewdley

A beautifully presented and sympathetically restored detached timber framed 16th century cottage sitting within generous grounds of approximately 8 acres in this beautiful and popular rural location within the Wye Forest with fabulous rural and countryside views

- 3/4 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Fitted Family Kitchen Diner
- B&B Accommodation
- Detached Double Bedroom with En-suite
- 2 Detached Stable Blocks, Barn & Store
- All Weather Ménage
- Approximately 8 Acres with Views

OFFERS INVITED £785,000



Fletchers Farm, Cleobury Mortimer

A comfortable deceptively spacious 3 bedroom farmhouse situated in a delightful location, having been extended and modernised to include a range of useful farm buildings and pasture fields situated in a most attractive rural location.

EPC= E

OFFERS INVITED £500,000

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Little Oak, Far Forest, Worcestershire

Little Oak is a wonderful detached country residence beautifully situated in this popular and convenient rural location combining contemporary living with traditional character features.

- 4 Bedroom
- Bathroom & 2 Shower Rooms
- 3 Reception Rooms & Ground Floor office
- Generous Fitted Kitchen Diner
- Gardens Approx 1 Acre
- Tennis Court
- Double Garage
- Work Shop
- Garden Room/Office
- EPC = F

OFFERS INVITED £565,000



The Croft, Kidderminster

A fabulous detached executive family home set in this popular and peaceful residential location, benefitting from an individual generous plot with attractive rear views.

- 6 Bedrooms & 2 En-Suites
- 2 Family Bathrooms
- Living & Dining Rooms
- Ground Floor Office
- Fitted Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room & Cloakroom
- Wonderful Mature Private Gardens with Views
- Detached Double Garage
- EPC=D

OFFERS INVITED £559,950



Blakebrook, Kidderminster, DY11 6AP

A beautiful character semi-detached family home in wonderful condition, having been extended and particularly well situated within one of Kidderminster's most popular and sought after residential locations.

- 4 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Spacious Living and Dining Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Extended Family Room
- Breakfast/Dining Area
- Cloakroom
- Private Gardens & Garage
- EPC=E

OFFERS INVITED £360,000



Franchise Road, Wolverley, Kidderminster

A much improved and extended detached family home situated in the much sought after village of Wolverley

- Detached & Extended House
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms & Shower Room
- Living & Dining Rooms
- Reception Hall/Study
- Large Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking for Several Vehicles
- Private Gardens
- EPC=D

OFFERS INVITED £309,950

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NEW



Prestwood - Stourbridge

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Contact: Andrew Grant or Andrew Leschallas on 01905 734735



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A beautiful two bedroom first floor apartment in a popular residential development. The property benefits from double glazing and allocated parking. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall, Private entrance hall, L' Shaped Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom and Two Bedrooms. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING=C DSS:NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: MAY

£400PCM DEPOSIT £500 + FEES



ST GEORGES ROAD NETHERTON

An extremely well presented one bedroom starter home with easy access to Dudley Town Centre. Accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, majority double glazing, walled rear garden with patio and lawned garden to the fore. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:MAY PETS: MAY CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM- DEPOSIT £475 + FEES



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in this popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and separate WC. The property further benefits from having electric heating, communal gardens, allocated parking and bin store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£325PCM- DEPOSIT £425 + FEES



WEBB COURT DRURY LANE

A Superb over 60's one bedroom ground floor Apartment in this prestigious retirement complex and close to all amenities of Stourbridge Town Centre. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall, private entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further boasts electric heating, double glazing, communal gardens and residents parking area. The complex facilities also include communal lounge, laundry room and guest suite. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£600PCM DEPOSIT £700 + FEES



GRAFTON GARDENS DUDLEY

A Superb new two bedroom semi detached property situated in a delightful cul-de-sac location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed lawned rear garden and driveway affording useful off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = B DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£600PCM DEPOSIT £700 + FEES



CALLCOTT DRIVE QUARRY BANK

A well presented two bedroom detached bungalow situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, garage, enclosed rear garden and lawned fore garden with private driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM -DEPOSIT £675 + FEES



FAIRFIELD ROAD NETHERTON

A very well presented three bedroom, semi detached family residence in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of: Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. The property further benefits from GCH, Off road parking and rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM DEPOSIT £675 + FEES



LIDDIARD COURT WOLLASTON

A beautifully presented two bedroom second floor over 60's apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance, communal lounge, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, storage heating, communal gardens and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C PETS: No CHILDREN: No DSS: No SMOKERS: No

£525PCM- DEPOSIT £625 + FEES



WALTERS ROW DUDLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Kitchen, lounge, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: YES PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£500PCM Deposit £600 + Fees



TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented unfurnished one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of: Video entry system, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 + FEES



WILLOWDALE GRANGE WOLVERHAMPTON

A Two Bedroom Ground floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Open Plan lounge/kitchen, inner hall, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric panel heaters, double glazing and communal grounds with an allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

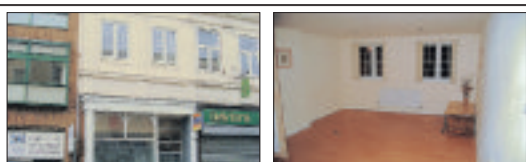
£395 DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



TAMAR RISE AMBLECOTE

A well presented one bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and built in shower room. The property also benefits from double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£390PCM DEPOSIT £490 + FEES



LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

A well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in the heart of Stourbridge Town Centre with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase at the rear of the property to the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM- DEPOSIT £475 + FEES



DOVE DRIVE AMBLECOTE

A well presented one bedroom first floor flat with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, allocated parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM - DEPOSIT £475 + FEES



NETHEREND LANE CRADLEY HEATH

An extremely well presented one bedroom ground floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: lounge, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and storage heaters. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 + FEES



BLAENWERN DRIVE

A spacious two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from having storage heating, double glazing, communal gardens and en-bloc garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£350PCM DEPOSIT £450 + FEES



KINGSWAY WOLLASTON

A well presented two bedroom large first floor flat situated close to all local amenities with accommodation to comprise: Reception hall, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING= E DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£350PCM DEPOSIT £450 + FEES

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— or email: —

lettings@townandcountrypropertyservices.co.uk



HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Private entrance, open plan Lounge/Kitchen being fully carpeted and with oven and hob. Bedroom with built in storage and Bathroom with shower. The property further benefits from double glazing and electric heating. There is allocated parking to the rear of the property. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = G DSS:YES PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£350PCM DEPOSIT £450 + FEES



KINGS MEWS KINGS COURT

A Brand new ground floor Studio apartment situated in walking distance of Wollaston Village. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall with entry phone system, private entrance hall, breakfast kitchen, lounge/bedroom area and shower room. The property further benefits from having electric heating, double glazing, off road parking to the fore and decked patio area to the rear. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£350PCM DEPOSIT £450 + FEES

Retailers scoop top award

The teams at local Black Country dealerships, Dudley Motor Company, T Wall Kingswinford, Halesowen Motor House and Stourbridge Motor House are celebrating this month after scooping the award for 'Vauxhall's No1' in their car market area for 2013.

The retailers were recognised by Vauxhall as one of the top performing dealerships in the West Midlands, and general managers Rob Gilbert (Dudley Motor Company) and Kevin Leaver (T Wall Kingswinford), were presented with the award last month by Vauxhall regional manager, Mike Fleetwood.

Rob comments: "We are extremely proud to receive this award – we couldn't have achieved this without the hard work and enthusiasm of our team here and on the other sites, so I would just like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of them for their dedication.

"To us, customer experience is very important and so we always want to make sure that all new or returning customers are able to approach any member of the team and are well looked after.

"We aim for our service to exceed expectations and so I'm keen to ensure there are many more years of satisfied Vauxhall customers to come – here's to what we hope will be another successful year!"

The local, family-run businesses have been trading for over 60 years and prides itself on offering top-quality customer care from Vauxhall-trained technicians and highly qualified staff.

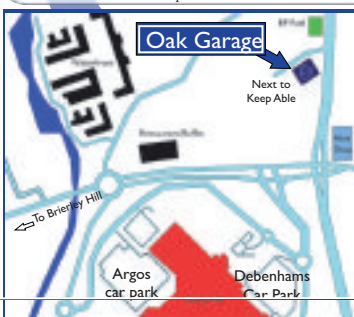


Citroen:	Retail	Vauxhall	Retail
60 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Airdream Blue 27k	£8,295	60 Astra 2.0 CDTI SRI Auto Grey 16k	£9,995
61 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Grey 14k	£8,995	07 Corsa 1.2 Club 3dr Gold 32k	£4,495
11 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Red 23k	£7,995	58 Corsa 1.2 Club Silver 27k	£5,495
10 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Red 31k	£7,695	11 Zafira 1.7 CDTI Exc Panacotta 22k	£8,795
11 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Silver 22k	£8,295	Other	
55 C4 1.6 SX Auto Blue 67k	£2,995	60 Audi A3 1.6 Technik SE S/Bk Auto Grey 34k	£11,995
11 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR EGS Blue 21k	£10,495	08 BMW 525i SE Auto 4dr Green 77k	£8,695
11 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR Grey 24k	£10,495	57 Chevrolet Kalos 1.4 SX 5dr Grey 52k	£2,995
60 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Blue 45k	£9,495	03 Honda CRV 2.0 SE Sport Auto Blue 75k	£3,995
07 C6 2.7 HDI Lignage Auto Silver 80k	£6,495	60 Kia Venga 2 1.6 Auto Silver 12k	£8,295
Ford		60 Kia Soul 1.6 Tempest CRDI Auto Silver 36k	£7,995
11 C-Max 1.6 Zetec Blue 12k	£9,995	10 Mazda 2 1.3 TS 5dr Silver 7k	£6,995
09 Focus 1.6 Style Estate Grey 29k	£6,595	57 Mini Cooper 1.6 Chilli Pack Blue 62k	£7,495
09 Fusion 1.4 TDCI Zetec Blue 48k	£5,995	54 Mitsubishi L200 2.5TD 4Life 4WD Silver 73k	£4,995
Nissan		56 Suzuki Gr Vitara 1.9 DDIS Green 50k	£6,995
60 Micra 1.2 Visia Auto Silver 12k	£7,295	55 Toyota Corolla 1.4 VVTi T2 Silver 72k	£3,795
60 Note 1.5 DCI N-Tec Red 31k	£7,995		
61 Note 1.5 DCI Tekna Caffé Latte 9k	£9,495		
08 Note 1.6 Acenta Auto Silver 48k	£4,995		
10 Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto Black 19k	£7,295		
07 Note 1.6 SE Auto Grey 38k	£4,995		
11 Qashqai 1.5 DCI Acenta Grey 26k	£11,995		
11 Qashqai 1.6 Acenta Black 25k	£10,995		
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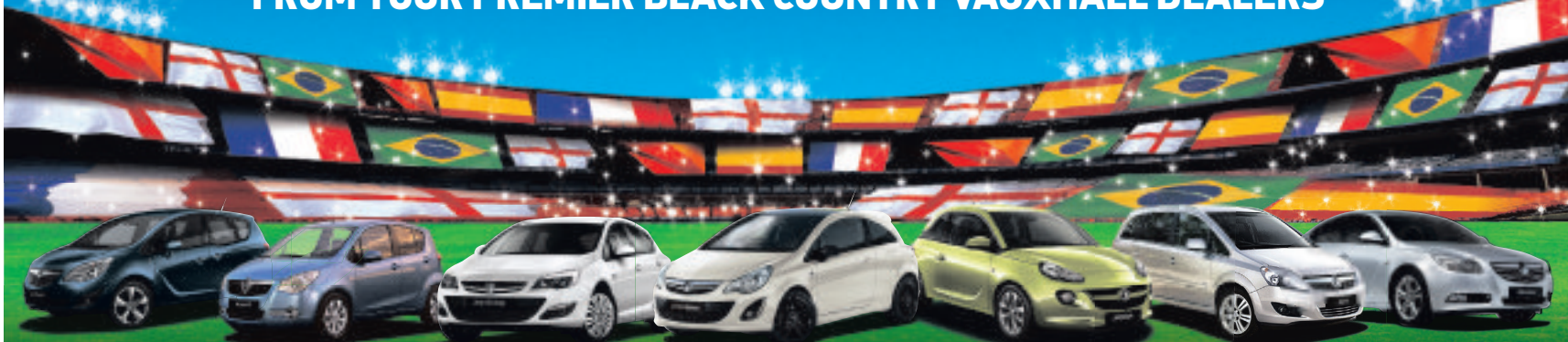
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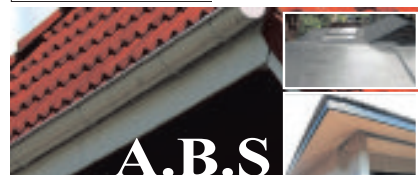
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Jackett is eyeing up deals for the future

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has said the holidays were on hold as he drew up his Championship wish-list.

Head coach Jackett is expected to move for several targets with Coventry hot-shot Callum Wilson, versatile Rochdale forward Scott Hogan and West Ham centre-back Jordan Spence.

Jackett insists there will be a 'drip-feed' of signings rather than the wholesale changes of last summer.

But he is ready to take the plunge in the transfer market to strengthen his squad for another promotion assault. "We haven't got anyone who's going to sign next week but we're aware of targets," said the boss.

"I don't think we've got a time-frame on it necessarily, but after Saturday, we won't just be dropping our bags and forgetting about it for two months.

"It will be a consistent drip-feed of players added, whether it be from the youth ranks or from outside. If our planning is good all the way along, our ambitions won't be to tear the thing up and go in a different direction like last summer.

"It will be a summer of adding quality to hopefully the foundations of a

Lambert in limbo on future

PAUL LAMBERT has admitted his Villa future is in limbo as Randy Lerner prepares to reveal his plans.

The boss is still in the dark about chairman Lerner's intentions and knows he could still face the sack in the summer.

Lerner is expected to confirm next week that he wants to sell Villa, who sealed Premier League survival with Saturday's 3-1 win over Hull.

Lambert has come under fire from fans after another season-long struggle but wants to be able to continue the job he started in 2012.

He said: "I hope I will still be manager next season, that is what I want to do," he added.

That's my boy! Jody's son steals show

Football

Little Toby Craddock, who is still under treatment for leukaemia at Birmingham Children's Hospital, ran on to score the penalty that put Wolves ahead before his older brothers Luke and Joseph did likewise.

For Jody, his wife Shelley and their family in the bigger-than-expected 9,095 crowd, it was a moment to bring a lump to the throat and smiles all round.

The penalty incident was all in fun of course and all carefully pre-meditated by Craddock senior, who tapped the ankles of Hollyoaks actor and Wolves fan Ayden

Callaghan with enough conviction to 'buy' referee Alan Wiley and award the spot kick six minutes from time.

While the idea had always been to 'engineer' a match-winning penalty, Craddock stalled on the idea of taking it himself.

It was an act so typical of his humility, but also explained why he was blessed with such an all-star cast list on the day: Phillips chose this ahead of Leicester's title parade and everyone wanted to play for Jody.

The spot-kick drama provided an appropriate ending to a game that was until then thin on goals but thick on effort and commitment, starting with the Sunderland fans, who travelled down in their hundreds to get a final glimpse in action of their prolific strike partnership of Niall Quinn and Kevin Phillips.

A happy Bank Holiday mood helped along by some mild sunshine started with a title parade by Kenny Jackett's squad, led emphatically by George Elokobi holding the trophy, and later holding the ball when he went in goal for the last 14 minutes.

While all eyes were on Phillips, who had a shot blocked before Quinn sliced over the rebound, it was the latter who produced a full length dive at the far post to beat Murray and put the Sunderland XI ahead two minutes before the break, later claiming he was aiming for the other side of the goal.

The light-hearted theme carried into an extended half-time which saw chief executive Jez Moxey don a garish bright yellow goalkeeping outfit to have a series of penalties taken at him by legendary rocker and Wolves vice-president Robert Plant, wearing full kit.

Yeltz pick up more silverware with win

Halesowen Town 3 Curzon Ashton 1

HALESOWEN lifted their second piece of silverware of the week after the newly-crowned Division One South champions beat Division One North champions Curzon Ashton to win the Peter Swales Challenge Shield on a day of celebrations at the Grove.

The game started evenly with both title-holders appearing well matched and it was late on in the match before the goals started coming for either side.

Elliott Turner and Aaron Griffiths went close for Halesowen early on but the visitors almost opened the scoring when Sam Walker's 25th minute free-kick struck the post.

As the Yeltz gradually gained control of the match, lyseden Christie's effort was scrambled clear and Christie set up Ben Haseley to drag a shot which went just wide.

Haseley then held the ball up for Turner to drive wide.

At the start of the second half, home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant made a fine fingertip save to deny Niall Cummins and keep the game scoreless for the time being.

As he has done so often this season Haseley finally put Halesowen ahead in the 65th minute after being let clean through by full-back Simon Woodford's slip.

Haseley then calmly rounded goalkeeper Hakan Burton before slotting his 40th goal of the season into an empty net.

As Curzon crumbled, Christie was left in space

Football

to double the lead with his 20th goal of the season from a close range header after meeting a trademark long throw-in from Tom Tonks just five minutes later.

Captain Joe Hull then got the final goal for the Yeltz to make it 3-0 with another free header in the 79th minute from Brendan Kelly's free-kick.

Curzon's consolation came two minutes into injury time when Walker's edge of the area free-kick rebounded for defender Connor Hampson to beat goalkeeper Sargeant.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Green, Kelly, MacKenzie (Forde 57), Hull (c).

Tilt, Griffiths (Gueyes 75), Tonks, Christie, Haseley, Turner (Botfield 67).

Unused Subs: Danks, Pearson (GK).

Curzon Ashton: Burton; Woodford, Hampson, Hunt, Watson, Young (Horrocks 80), Rowney, Walker (c), Cummins (Kay 79), Warburton, Brook (Bett 58).

Unused Subs: McDonagh, Minor.

Referee: Robbie Dudley. Attendance: 440

Battling Under-12s are runners-up in final



Runners-up Stourbridge Under-12s with their medals after losing out in the final

STOURBRIDGE U12s went to the prestigious Anglo Welsh Cup at Lucantonians Rugby Club in Herefordshire, aiming to defend the trophy they won in 2013, having also run out as winners in 2011 and 2009.

The tournament positions more than 1,100 young rugby players from 21 clubs in England and Wales against each other in an annual tournament of rugby for 6 to 12 year olds.

Stourbridge were placed in a very

tough pool along with Wiltshire club Devizes RFC, Hereford, previous tournament winners Brecon and the local Premiership side from Worcester Warriors.

Stourbridge won all four pool games scoring 12 tries to qualify for the semi final as group winners.

A difficult semi-final against Cardiff's Penrth, a feeder club for Cardiff Blues, was settled by a single try to none with the victorious Stour-

bridge U12S progressing through to the final.

The final was a difficult game against former 2012 winners Gwer-nyfed RFCGwernyfed took the lead early in the first half.

An equalising try was scored before half time. The final ended in a draw at one try each, with Stourbridge narrowly missing out on the trophy because of try countback, with Gwer-nyfed declared tournament winners.

Firsts in romp to victory at home

**Stourbridge 1st XI 217
Coventry North Warwickshire 1st XI 118
(Stourbridge win)**

STOURBRIDGE romped to a victory. Alex Bingham and Steve Game survived the early movement of the ball taking the score to 35 when Game was caught off Daniel Vernon for 25.

Bingham battled on joined by Richard Bradley who did not last long judged LBW for 10 off the bowling of Lesiba Ngoepe. The Visitors struggled to check the stroke play of both Bingham and the left hander Audy Alexander.

**Astwood Bank 2nd XI 254 - 7 Stourbridge 2nd XI 254-7
(Match tied)**

Alex Spence and the new signing Ikram Mus-sadaq made a solid start putting on 49 for the first wicket. Spence lost his wicket to Tom Sheperd for nine. Stour faltered losing Matt Norgrove for a duck Sheperd claiming his second victim.

**Stourbridge 3rd XI 133
Hallow 3rd XI 132
(Stourbridge win)**

After a half century partnership between Greg Fowler (17) and Scott Hodgetts (24) the visitors lost their way batting only 30 of 45 overs.

**Hallow 2nd 121 XI
Stourbridge 4th XI 122-9
(Stourbridge win)**

Season was a shambles, says Brunt

CAPTAIN Chris Brunt has branded Albion's season a "shambles" and warned they must learn lessons despite avoiding relegation from the Premier League.

The Baggies' top-flight status was effectively confirmed when Norwich failed to beat Chelsea despite Pepe Mel's side losing 1-0 at Arsenal.

But skipper Brunt admitted the campaign has been shambolic and the players will be "bitterly disappointed" despite managing to survive.

The season has brought controversies involving Nicolas Anelka and Saido Berahino, the unpopular sale of Shane Long and the sacking of boss Steve Clarke.



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Yeah! for Yeltz
Halesowen pick up
more silverware
Page 39

Battling boys
Runners-up medals
for Under-12 squad
Page 39



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Troubles just keep coming for Woff

TAI WOFFINDEN'S troubled season continued as Wolverhampton slumped to a heavy 59-31 defeat at Eastbourne.

World champion Woffinden was the headline act with posters all around the seaside resort advertising his appearance at the Arlington circuit.

But he fell in his opening ride and was excluded by the referee and things only improved with two wins late in the meeting when it was too late.

The Monmore men were outgated by an Eagles side without the services of brilliant young Dane Mikkel Michelsen who, along with Wolves ace Piotr Pawlicki, was on World Under-21 duty in Germany.

Boss Peter Adams tried Woffinden for double points to keep his side in contention – only to see the move backfire and the meeting was over as a contest.

Eastbourne 59: Cameron Woodward 15+2, Bjarne Pedersen 12+1, Jonas Kylmakorpi 10+2, Lewis Blackburn 10+1, Timo Lahti 9+2, Dan Halsey 3+1, Mikkel Michelsen r/r.

Wolverhampton 31: Tai Woffinden 8, Jacob Thorsell 6, Ty Proctor 5, Ricky Wells 4, Joe Jacobs 3+2, Adam Skornicki 3, Ashley Morris 2.

Jackett wants big support

KENNY JACKETT says it's his ambition to keep 30,000 crowds at Wolves with good football.

Gates of 30,110 and 29,829 watched their last two home games as they stormed to the third-tier title with a string of records propelled by 17 wins out of the last 21 games.

Head coach Jackett wants to maintain the feelgood factor with 30,000 crowds the norm.

"We wanted to do well on Saturday so we have 30,000 people looking forward to next season," said Jackett.

"We want people saying: 'They're a good football side and we'll support them next season and we're looking forward to it.'"

"The crowd of 30,000 will only react off what they see on the pitch."

He is keen to maintain the restored connection between fans and players.

Perfect end to a perfect season for Wolves

A PERFECT performance to round off a perfect day and a perfect season.

The perfect man for the job – Kenny Jackett – got his wish as Wolves finished with a bang.

In fact, in keeping with the meticulous planner that he is, it couldn't have gone much better if he had written the script himself.

He probably wouldn't have wanted to have got drenched in champagne while suited and booted, but he and his players have earned the right to celebrate this momentous season which the fans just didn't

Football

want to end. It is difficult to imagine a man happier in his work or more comfortable in his surroundings. What a difference a year makes. It all seemed a long way off on that windswept Friday night when they lost 1-0 at Gillingham. But Wolves haven't looked back since, winning a staggering 17 out of 21 games and losing just once.

Six club milestones have fallen to Jackett's side, but on Saturday they were able to add two national ones to the consecutive wins, most overall wins, most away victo-

ries, most clean sheets, most points and fewest away goals conceded. That record points tally for the third tier and a 25th shutout in the league, which is the best ever at this level.

Captain Sam Ricketts chose the final game of the season to produce arguably his best game for the club. Not only did he score for the second successive home game, his sweeping left-foot drive from the edge of the box putting Wolves ahead in the fifth minute, but he was a constant threat down the right.

Michael Jacobs headed the second in

on 23 minutes, producing a majestic leap to nod home off the post after Scott Golbourne's cross from the left had been allowed to bounce on the edge of the six-yard box. But three minutes later Nouha Dicko finally got on the scoresheet when he lashed home after Golbourne's shot from Kevin McDonald's pull-back had been parried by Jordan Pickford.

Like many others, this 31st victory of the season could have been more emphatic.

Wolves have breezed through League One with plenty to spare.

Fans are thanked by Jody

JODY Craddock thanked the thousands of fans for turning up for his testimonial on an emotional day at Molineux.

A crowd of 9,095 watched Craddock's former Wolves and Sunderland Championship-winning teams of 2009 and 1999 respectively do friendly battle on Monday.

And the players cast his was as impressive as the attendance as current Wolves players Carl Ikeme, Richard Stearman, George Elokobi and Dave Edwards joined forces with old teammates Craddock, Christophe Berra, Seyi Olofinjana and Sylvan Ebanks-Blake.

Ex-Black Cats stars included Kevin Phillips, Niall Quinn, Kevin Kilbane, Thomas Sorensen and Gavin McCann, while Craddock and Alex Rae turned out for both sides.

"It was great – there was a fantastic turnout," said Craddock.

The major beneficiary is Birmingham Children's Hospital, where the Craddocks' son Toby is still receiving treatment for leukaemia but it will take a few weeks to work out how much the game raised.

● Steal – Page 39 Friendlies for Smith's squad

THE Saddlers have confirmed two more pre-season friendly fixtures – as they will twice head to Devon.

Dean Smith's men will face Calor League outfit Taunton Town on Wednesday July 16, before travelling to Torquay United – relegated from League Two this season – three days later on Saturday July 19.

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NO MISTAKES THIS TIME FOR LYE SIDE



Champions! Lye Town celebrate winning the West Midlands (regional) League Premier Division title for 2013-14 after beating neighbours Dudley Town
Lye Town 9 Dudley Town 2

Football

IN their final game of last season Lye Town suffered the agony of missing out on the title as they let the three points slip away as they lost to the Casuals.

They made no such mistake this time around however, defeating Dudley Town 9-2 at home.

This meant that Lye were able to claim the points they needed to finally be crowned Champions of the West Midlands regional League.

Lye took charge of the game and were 3-0 up at half-time, thanks to goals from Ricky Anslow, James Spray and Scott

Moore, and then the team had its tail in the air and ran riot in the second half as Dudley struggled to hold back the tide of blue shirts that were swarming over their penalty area.

Anslow struck for his second of the night a minute not long after the break and Matt Johnson quickly added Lye's fifth with a left-footed daisy cutter from 20 yards out which found that target and essentially put the game out of reach of Dudley.

Just before the hour mark Anslow completed his hat-trick with a perfect chip shot over Dudley keeper, Luke Morton, from six yards to put Lye six goals up.

Dudley briefly staged a revival when Shaun Devonport struck two goals in two minutes but their flickering flame

of hope was quickly extinguished when Spray slotted home his second goal three minutes later.

Steve Weaver then added the best goal of the night with a right-footed rocket from 25 yard that flew past the weary Morton on 80 minutes and brought the tally up to eight.

The final goal came two minutes later when Anslow ran clear and rounded the keeper before slotting in what was his fourth score of the night.

When Lye won their only previous title, 16 years ago, they were denied promotion due to their ground not meeting the required standard for the Midland Football Alliance League.

Those rules have since been relaxed so Lye can now look forward to renewing their rivalry with AFC Wulfrunians, the team that piped them to the title on the final day of last season.

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